CNMI inks MOU with US Labor to expand workforce capacity. PAGE 3
SHS: More community events in the works. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 164
FRIDAY AUGUST 18, 2023
www.saipantribune.com
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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
43

DUE TO TOUCHBACK'S IMPACT

CUC worries contractors may be unable to bid for projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is concerned that many of its contractors may be unable to bid for its many federally-funded projects because of the "touchback" rule that is going to go into effect by the end of next month.

In his report during CUC's regular board meeting

See CUC on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water/wastewater division acting chief engineer Larry Manacop, third from right, in blue shirt, talks about the "touchback" rule and environmental permitting as among some challenges in moving forward with many federally funded projects during a regular CUC board meeting yesterday. Manacop and other CUC officials also talked about their accomplished, pending, and upcoming projects.

Seizure of some IPI assets OK'd

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered that a writ of execution be issued to the U.S Marshals Service so it could seize Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's vehicles, the two crystal dragons that hang over the casino's lobby, and more. The writ has force to be executed immediately.

See SEIZURE on Page 4

CLEAR THE SHELTER MONTH LEIGH GASES
A pet owner with his pet dog checks out the stand full of pet supplies and medicine with volunteer Victoria Sewell, left, at the Clear the Shelter Month event by Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program at the Animal Shelter in As Perdido last Wednesday. **Story on Page 8**

'15 applied as CUC chief; only 2 meet the requirements'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has received a total of 15 applications for the position of executive director, but only two of the applicants met the requirements, according to CUC board chair Janice A. Tenorio yesterday.

In an interview during a

See CUC CHIEF on Page 4

ACCORDING TO AP DATA ANALYSIS

Fires, other disasters are increasing in Hawaii

By SETH BORENSTEIN, MARY KATHERINE WILDEMAN and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press

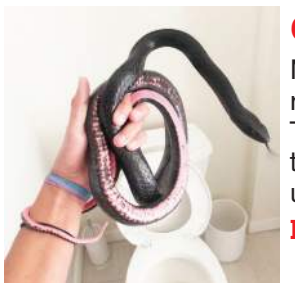
KIHEI, Hawaii (AP)—Hurricane-fueled flash floods and mudslides. Lava that creeps into neighborhoods. Fierce drought that materializes in a flash and lingers. Earthquakes. And now, deadly fires that burn block after historic block.

Hawaii is increasingly under siege from disasters, and what is escalating most is wildfire, according to an Associated Press analysis of Federal Emergency Management Agency

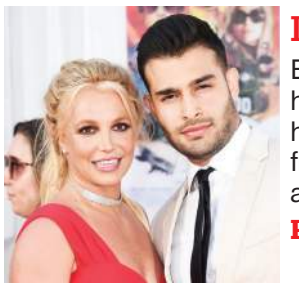
See FIRES on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Satisfy your cravings at The Terrace of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan with its buffet themes.
PAGE 14



OFF THE WALL
Michelle Lespron returned to her Tucson home to find that a snake had set up camp in her toilet.
PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE
Britney Spears ' husband Sam Asghari has filed for divorce from the superstar after 14 months.
PAGE 15

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Local

Sobriety checkpoints set

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will conduct eight separate sobriety checkpoints this month.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, the first checkpoint will occur on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya along the westbound lane from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai on the southbound lane from 10pm to 11:15pm.

On Aug. 25, 2023, which is Friday next week, the first checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose on the westbound lane from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Chalan Lau Lau on the southbound lane from 10pm to 11:15prn.

On the last Friday of August, Aug. 25, 2023, the first checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, in Puerto Rico on the southbound lane from 6pm to 7:15pm. The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai on the southbound lane from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. ***(PR)***

UOG extends registration through Aug. 29

The University of Guam is extending the registration period for the *Fanuchånan* semester through Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Classes for the *Fanuchånan* semester are scheduled to start on Aug. 16.

To register for classes, schedule a meeting with an academic advisor, see financial aid options, or for more information, visit: https://registration.uog.edu/. ***(UOG)***

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Police arrest two men accused of assault

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety recently arrested two men accused of assault in two separate cases.

Last Tuesday, DPS issued a news release stating that it arrested Isidro A. Pangelinan, and Michael I. Olaitiman.

Pangelinan, 55, is facing charges of assault and battery, assault, vandalism, and disturbing the peace, while Olaitiman, 28, faces charges of assault and battery, vandalism, and disturbing the peace.

Both men appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, who imposed a $5,000 cash bail for Pangelinan and a $3,000 cash bail on Olaitman.

After the bail hearing, Bogdan remanded both men back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered them to return to court on Aug. 23 for a preliminary hearing while their arraignments were set for Aug. 28.

According to the complaint against Pangelinan, DPS stated that 911 dispatch received a call at around 10:44am last Sunday from an anonymous caller reporting a disturbance at a residence in Koblerville just north of the ABCD Market. Police arrived at the scene and met a woman and a minor, who were later determined to be the alleged victims in the case.

The first victim accused Pangelinan of punching her while the second victim stated that he grabbed her face and pushed her against the wall.

Although the minor managed to chase Pangelinan out of the room, police said he was able to damage the woman's car.

In the complaint against Olaitiman, DPS said that it received a disturbance call at around 12:57am on Aug. 15

See POLICE on Page 4

CNMI inks MOU with US Labor in bid to expand local workforce capacity

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang were joined recently by CNMI Labor Secretary Leila Staffler in a meeting with U.S. Department of Labor's Wage & Hour Division district director Terence J. Trotter, U.S. Department of Labor assistant district director for Guam and the CNMI Patrick G. Candoleta, and U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division investigator Feng Daniel Wang to sign a memorandum of understanding.

The purpose of the MOU is to re-establish the relationship between both agencies in sharing information on training and labor opportunities. The goals of the MOU include helping unemployed individuals transition back into the workforce, presenting additional opportunities in acquiring skill sets and certifications through training, and uplifting the people of the Commonwealth in general.

The MOU asserts that the U.S. Department of Labor and the CNMI Department of Labor will continue to collaboratively work toward more employment opportunities for the people of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ASSOCIATION (RPNMIA/CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY) WILL HOLD ITS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 @6:00 P.M., AT THE GARAPAN CENTRAL PARK, GARAPAN, SAIPAN

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DPW talks traffic as classes resume

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saiptribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With road repairs and construction in full swing along Beach Road and the 2023-24 school year fully kicking off next week, the Department of Public Works is laying the groundwork to share with the public what can be expected and how to avoid unnecessary holdups.

DPW was joined by its project contractors and members of partnering agencies at the DPW office in Oleai yesterday in a press briefing meant to share with the public what can be expected as classes resume.

DPW Secretary Ray Yumul and his team were joined in yesterday's briefing by members of the construction project's general contractor, GPPC; construction management, Pacific Engineering Group Services; Department of Public Safety, and the Public School System.

PSS' Shawn San Nicolas shared that, in anticipation of the traffic, one of the solutions they have come up with is to make some adjustments in the dropoff points, and to come up with alternate dropoff points.

"Were just asking the public, especially the students and parents that will be going to [Marianas High School] to be aware of what the traffic plans are within the school itself, because even entering the school once they get in to drop off their kids, there's going to be traffic," he said. "… The dropoff point for students will be in front of the library. … Were asking parents to also use the back exit by the gym, and down toward Texas Road and you can exit down between the courthouse and [Department of Corrections] and DPS, or go further down and exit through the traffic light at Joeten or further down by Shirley's."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMA containers burglarized again

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Athletics' container was burglarized yesterday, making it the third burglary reported at the Oleai Sports Complex within a year.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that two shovels were stolen from the NMA containers.

Nathan Guerrero, facilities supervisor at the Oleai Sports Complex, said they discovered the burglary yesterday morning.

"We realized our padlocks had been cut again so we went to check NMA's container and realized those were cut as well," he said.

The Department of Public Safety continues to investigate the burglary, which is the third burglary reported at the sports complex within the last year.

The last burglary was reported back in July when over $1,000 worth of equipment used to maintain the facilities were stolen. The perpetrator also vandalized the facilities using spray paint.

Saipan Tribune learned that the investigation into the July burglary has gone cold, with no leads or suspects.

The first burglary report at the Oleai Sports Complex was filed in December 2022, but the sports complex was able to get most of the stolen items back.

FIRES

From page 1

records. That reality can clash with the vision of Hawaii as paradise. It is, in fact, one of the riskiest states in the country.

"Hawaii is at risk of the whole panoply of climate and geological disasters," said Debarati Guha-Sapir, director of the international disasters database kept at the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. She listed storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes.

Hawaii has been in more danger lately. This month alone, the federal government declared six different fire disasters in Hawaii—the same number recorded in the state from 1953 to 2003.

Across the United States, the amount of acres burned by wildfires about tripled from the 1980s to now, with a drier climate from global warming a factor, according to the federal government's National Climate Assessment and the National Interagency Fire Center. In Hawaii, the burned area increased more than five times from the 1980s to now, according to figures from the University of Hawaii Manoa.

Longtime residents—like Victoria Martocci, who arrived to Maui about 25 years ago—know this all too well.

"Fire happened maybe once a year or once every two years. Over the last ten years, it has been more frequent," said Martocci, who lost a boat and her business, Extended Horizons Scuba, to the fire that swept through Lahaina.

From 1953 to 2003, Hawaii averaged one federally declared disaster of any type every two years, according to the analysis of FEMA records. But now it averages more than two a year, about a four-fold increase, the data analysis shows.

It's even worse for wildfires. Hawaii went from averaging one federally declared fire disaster every nine years or so to one a year on average since 2004.

Watching the fires on Maui, Native Hawaiian Micah Kamohoali'i's mind drifted to 2021, when the state's largest ever wildfire burned through his family's Big Island home and scorched a massive swath of land on the slopes of Mauna Kea.

Linda Hunt, who works at a horse stable in Waikoloa Village on the Big Island, had to evacuate in that 2021 fire. Given the abundance of dry grass on the islands from drought and worsening fires, Hunt said fire agencies need to "double or triple" spending on fire gear and personnel.

CUC

From page 1

yesterday, CUC water/wastewater division acting chief engineer Larry Manacop cited the "touchback" rule affecting many of the CNMI's foreign workers and environmental permitting delays as among some of their challenges in moving many projects forward.

Manacop said they have since learned that one of their contractors would be sending home about 98 of its staff due to the "touchback" rule. With such potential for limited staffing, many of these contractors will be unable to bid on CUC projects, he said.

"Touchback" refers to the requirement for foreign workers to leave the CNMI before their work visas could be renewed for a third consecutive time. That departure requirement also means that they will have to stay away from the CNMI until a new permit is approved, which could take months.

Manacop said he did mention the "touchback" rule during one of their meetings with federal agencies at a workshop in Honolulu. "Yes, we're very grateful for the many millions of dollars that you guys are providing, but also please try to make it easier for us to implement these projects," he said.

In essence, Manacop said, you have federal agencies that are providing the CNMI millions of dollars to build projects, while one federal agency—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—is restricting workers from working on these projects. He USCIS is making it difficult for CNMI contractors to get needed workers.

On the issue of environmental permitting, Manacop said that getting environmental clearances from the National Environmental Policy Act, Historic Preservation Office, and Division of Fish and Wildlife are the most challenging for CUC. "That's what [preventing] a lot of these projects [from] moving forward," he added.

Manacop said they have projects that already have designs from two years ago, but they are still struggling with HPO until now to get a memorandum of agreement.

He appealed to the CUC board to help them in this matter, that if there is something the board can help with the permitting process, they really need assistance in this aspect.

CUC project manager Nicolette Villagomez said CUC is actively working with the state HPO, along with the Office of Planning and Development, and the Infrastructure Recovery Program that is now under OPD, to put together a blanket agreement for all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants to streamline their archeological permitting process.

"That's something that we are still in negotiations with," Villagomez said, adding that they had a meeting with the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and EPA, and their lawyers to put together this agreement that they can use in moving forward and at least take care of all the archeological historic resource investigations.

CUC CHIEF

From page 1

break in the CUC board meeting, Tenorio said the applicants who met the requirements are both from the U.S. mainland and that CUC is going to be sending their applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the vetting process, after which they will then proceed with interviewing the applicants. Tenorio said the EPA is usually fast in doing the vetting process.

EPA is involved in the hiring process for a new CUC executive director as part of a court-mandated order that requires CUC to hire a fully-qualified candidate who has been vetted by the EPA.

The CUC board discussed the update on the recruitment for the executive director's position during an executive session.

CUC administration chief Betty G. Terlaje has been serving as acting executive director since April 28.

Meanwhile, newly confirmed board directors Rebecca Agnes C. White and Valerie Atalig joined the board meeting yesterday. Board director Rufo T. Mafnas was elected board treasurer.

Tenorio thanked Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for completing the appointment of directors and stated that they are now ready to work with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Aside from Tenorio, Mafnas, White, and Atalig, the other board directors are Donald R. Browne, Allen Michael Perez, Simon A. Sanchez, and Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board chair Frank Borja. All were present at yesterday's board meeting. Perez appeared virtually by video.

SEIZURE

From page 1

Last Wednesday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona denied IPI's motion for leave to file a late opposition in response to plaintiff Joshua Gray's application for writ of execution, paving the way for the issuance of the writ to authorize the seizures.

Once the clerk has issued the writ of execution to the U.S Marshals, they are immediately given authority to seize IPI's property. It remains unknown whether the District Court clerk has already issued the writ of execution, but compared to previous writs issued by the court, the U.S. Marshals Service usually executes seizures within a few days after a judge issues its order.

Gray, IPI's former director of operations, won his discrimination lawsuit against the casino investor and applied for a writ of execution to authorize the seizure of IPI's properties to satisfy the $5,686,182.20 judgment against the casino investor.

In denying IPI's motion, Manglona approved Gray's application and ordered the court clerk to issue a writ of execution for the seizure of IPI's personal properties, specifically vehicles, liquor, crystal dragons, computer hardware, furniture and equipment, and casino-related security equipment.

After the Marshals Service executes the writ and seizes IPI's property, IPI may file any exceptions within 14 days, Manglona said.

According to court documents, after Gray triumphed in his lawsuit against IPI back in May, the court allowed Gray to participate in the limited receivership proceedings last June to satisfy the over $5-million judgment granted in his favor.

However, last July, Gray filed his application for writ of execution against IPI's personal property so that it can be sold in an auction to satisfy judgment awarded him in his suit.

"The total resale value of these assets will likely not exceed the value of plaintiff's judgment; and, if the funds from the sale are sufficient to pay the judgment, then the further sale of IPI's assets may be stopped," the application stated.

He also requested the court to order IPI to maintain any required registrations and insurance for all of the assets identified, and any other personal property, and maintain these items in good condition.

Gray sued IPI on the grounds of wrongful termination in violation of public policy (immigration violations), wrongful failure to hire, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He then filed a motion for default judgment in the amount of over $20 million.

Gray, through his lawyer, Bruce Berline, claims that he is entitled to compensatory damages of back pay, front pay, lost future earnings/reputational harm, emotional distress, punitive damages, pre- and post-judgment interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

Gray requested back pay damages of $464,083.00, front pay damages of $1,475,685.00, and emotional distress damages of $2 million.

In addition, he asked that the court to grant him punitive damages that is seven times the amount of compensatory damages he is asking for, which would have been roughly $27,578,376. The court instead granted him a judgment in the amount of $5,686,182.20.

POLICE

From page 3

at a residence in Afetna. At the scene, police officers met with the alleged victim, who had injuries on her face.

Police learned from the alleged victim that, prior to the incident, she and Olaitiman had just returned home around midnight from an event, when Olaitman allegedly accused her of cheating on him, which caused an argument to ensue.

The victim said that during the argument, Olaitman threw an electric fan at her, choked her and punched her, causing her to black out.

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16 youths take part in CHCC summer youth internship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A cohort of 16 participants of the 2023 CHCC Summer Youth Program have their picture taken with officials and staff of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The 2023 CHCC Summer Youth Program and the Career Exploration Summer Internship—a collaborative effort among the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, CNMI Public School System, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—has successfully concluded, marking a significant milestone in nurturing the potential of our youth and fostering their interest in the healthcare industry.

This year's program welcomed a cohort of 16 enthusiastic participants, who embarked on a transformative journey to attain valuable knowledge and practical experience in a healthcare setting. Through the program, these interns had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in work-based learning, gaining insights and skills that will contribute to their future careers.

The primary focus of the summer youth program was to empower students with a genuine interest in healthcare, specifically in ancillary services. Placed across various ancillary units on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, these 16 interns exhibited exceptional dedication and enthusiasm, proving their commitment to honing their talents and expanding their horizons.

The partnership among the SCC, PSS, and CHCC has been instrumental in creating a comprehensive and enriching experience for our youth. By offering work-based learning experiences to high school students, we have not only fueled their passion for the healthcare sector but also taken substantial steps toward addressing the increasing demand for skilled professionals in the CNMI.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders. Through continued collaboration and innovative educational initiatives, we aspire to create a thriving workforce that will shape the future of healthcare in the CNMI and beyond. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL TERMINAL RESTROOM DRAINAGE REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Arrival Terminal Restroom Drainage Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2023 CHST.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 (CHST).** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 8, 2023

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Homesmart Corporation dba Best Deal General Merchandise

THE POSITION: Auditing Clerk

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete; Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records; May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers; Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information; Check figures postings and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy and proper codes; Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations; Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and procedures documents; Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School graduate.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Auditing Clerk

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS OR REQUIREMENTS: Must have good communication and interpersonal skills; Must have knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, and other office procedures.

JOB SITE: Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to:

RUEL R. VILLACRUSIS
General Manager
HOMESMART CORPORATION DBA BEST DEAL GENERAL MERCHANDISE

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Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate $2,186,599 of Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which include project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. There are no changes from the previous QAP which included capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits may obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application will be available on the NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net by selecting the "LIHTC Tab".

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 p.m., October 20, 2023.** NMHC staff will then review the applications and will notify the Owners/Developers of any deficiencies within 14-days time and the Owners/Developers will be given 14-days to correct any deficiencies and to provide any supplemental information requested by NMHC. The projects will be scored and recommendations will be made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **November/December 2023** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits within fifteen (15) days following the November/December 2023 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SY 2023-2024 Elementary School Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY-FRIDAY
GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
GREGORIO T. CAMACHO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
OLEAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
TINIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm
WILLIAM S. REYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7:30 am - 11:30 am	7:30 am - 2:10 pm

SY 2023-2024 Middle School Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY-FRIDAY
CHACHA OCEANVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:15 pm	8:30 am - 3:15 pm
DANDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:06 pm	8:30 am - 3:09 pm
FRANCISCO M. SABLAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:15 pm	8:30 am - 3:09 pm
ADMIRAL HERBERT G. HOPWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:15 pm	8:30 am - 3:15 pm
TANAPAG MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:15 pm	8:30 am - 3:09 pm
DR. RITA HOCOG INOS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	8:15 am - 12:30 pm	8:15 am - 3:00 pm
TINIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	8:30 am - 12:15 pm	8:30 am - 3:15 pm

SY 2023-2024 High School Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY-FRIDAY
KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:45 pm
MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:45 pm
SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:45 pm
DA'OK ACADEMY	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:45pm
DR. RITA HOCOG INOS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	8:15 am - 12:30 pm	8:15 am - 3:00 pm
TINIAN HIGH SCHOOL	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:45 pm

SY 2023-2024 Bus Schedule

SCHOOL LEVEL	BUS STOP PICK UP TIME	1ST BELL	HALF DAY DISMISSAL PICK UP TIME	FULL DAY DISMISSAL PICK UP TIME
Elementary	7:00 am	7:30 am	11:30 am	2:10 pm
Middle School	7:30 am	8:30 am	12:15 pm	3:15 pm
High School	7:50 am	9:00 am	1:00 pm	3:45 pm
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School	7:45 am	8:15 am	12:30 pm	3:00 pm

BUS RIDERS MUST BE AT THE BUS STOP 10 MINUTES BEFORE PICK UP TIME

SHS: More community events in the works

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a successful first Clear The Shelter Month event last Wednesday, the Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program are looking forward to more events like these to benefit the CNMI community and its pets.

Wednesday's event at the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Shelter in As Perdido saw pet owners availing of the food distribution by donation and animal healthcare services, including vaccinations, obtaining the anti-parasite Bravecto, and health consultations.

The Clear the Shelter Month Event also featured dogs/puppies up for adoption/foster, with one dog adopted and two puppies being sent to a foster home.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan Humane Society volunteers, from left to right, Victoria Sewell, Kim Vascik, Eric Sawyer, and Quinn Bready, pose for a photo during the Clear the Shelter Month event by Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program at the Animal Shelter in As Perdido last Wednesday.

Lauren Cabrera, president and founder of SHS, said after the event that it went great and many people came by. "We hope to do many more donation-based food distribution and pet supplies distribution events to the community," she said. "Our organization is growing so fast—it's super exciting! There's a lot more in store for the rest of the year, and we're really excited to grow with the community and be a permanent animal welfare and animal health service organization."

Cabrera is highly optimistic, saying that things are going in the "right direction." "In the future, we're looking for different businesses and vendors to partner with. We'd love to do events at different places, or have a stand come to the shelter with food, or something like that. We're also seeking lunch sponsors for the upcoming spay/neuter clinic in the next two weeks," said Cabrera.

Tina Ngo, who was at the event, said that she came to check and interact with the adoptable animals that she heard about through social media.

When asked about the event, she said, "I think this is great. I really love that the mayor's shelter and Saipan Humane Society are putting up events like these and I hope it continues and becomes a more regular thing…and educating the community about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets are really important. Getting the youth involved and passionate about animal welfare is also really important. So I think what this organization is doing is super necessary."

Another pet owner, 16-year-old Charles Guiang, came out with his mother to avail of the services. He said the event benefits the community and its pets. Before he left, he even signed up to become a volunteer with SHS.

For those in the community interested in spaying or neutering their pet, visit the SHS website at www.saipanhumanesociety.org to self-schedule. If you do not see any appointment available, reach out to the team at 1(670) 838-7387.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today for PD training

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed today, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023, for professional development training. Office hours will resume on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, at 8am. ***(PR)***

GCC fall semester registration ends today

Student registration for the fall semester for new and continuing students ends today, Aug. 18, 2023, at the Guam Community College. In-person registration is at Building 2000 from 8am to 5pm.

Those interested in registering for the fall semester should bring with them:

- Valid photo identification card
- High School transcripts
- Shot record
- Tax Year 2021 documents (for financial aid)

The last day to add or drop a class and make payment or get on a payment plan is also today, Aug. 18, 2023, at 5pm.

Online registration can be done at GuamCC.edu/Apply. Existing students can register for classes online using their MyGCC login credentials. Fall semester classes started on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. ***(PR)***

Youth Congress session tomorrow

The first day, third regular session of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, at 10am in the House of Representatives chamber of the Legislature on Capital Hill. ***(PR)***

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GLAD 13GAL SSSTEP WASTE BIN W/CLX PRTCTN
NOW! $49.95 WAS: $99.95
YESCOM AWNING 8' 2"X7' 7" VEHICLE ROOFTOP SIDE TENT
NOW! $79.95 WAS: $154.95
FOLDING DIRECTORS CHAIR W/TABLE & COOLER
NOW! $46.95 WAS: $87.95
MARCO - DRESSING TABLE (W800*D350*H1820MM)
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Apatang happy with progress of Beach Road repairs, Tinian and Rota projects

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang is glad with the progress of the ongoing Beach Road Improvement Project as well the many road improvement projects on Tinian and Rota.

"We're looking forward to a lot of projects," said Apatang at a press briefing on Monday, referring to many federally-funded infrastructure projects.

On Tinian, they're almost done with the road repair improvement project with the help of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seabees, he said.

On Rota, construction has already started on one section of the back road. The project was previously on hold because of quarry materials and equipment issues.

The Beach Road Improvement Project involves the resurfacing and other improvements to a significant portion of Beach Road within two years to address safety issues, traffic efficiency, stormwater diversion, roadway aesthetics, and other important elements.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said one of the things he and Apatang did when they came into office last January was look at the status of all these projects and what's holding them up.

"So we pushed that and helped resolve [some issues]," Palacios said.

He said the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has a lot of funding for infrastructure, including part of the Beach Road Improvement Project.

Other projects involve paving some of the roads on Tinian, as well as a housing project for individual homes on Rota.

Palacios said a lot of the problems that were holding up the Rota housing project were land documents and ownership, which are the same issues that the Federal Emergency Management Agency faced with its emergency homes project.

The governor said they basically called Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Sylvan Igisomar and the Division of Fish and Wildlife to help speed up the process. "That's not to say that we are going to ignore and violate any regulatory requirements. But we need to find out how we can address it," he said.

Palacios said the permitting agencies are pretty much moving now.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport Commercial Marina Perimeter Fencing, Project No. CPA-RS-001-23, for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"THOMAS CAMACHO MENDIOLA COMMERCIAL SEAPORT COMMERCIAL MARINA PERIMETER FENCING, CPA-SS-001-23"* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of the Marina Perimeter Fencing including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Ports Manager's Confernce Room, located at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. **Attendance is Mandatory.** A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Mr Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer at atudela@cnmiports.com with copy to Fermin R. Flores at ferminf@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY ($100.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Georgia's indictment of Trump is a legitimate probe of a dangerous demagogue

Although it was expected, the indictment by a Fulton County, Georgia, grand jury of Donald Trump and 18 others is still a wrenching moment—another one—for American democracy. As with the federal indictment that also grew out of Trump's outrageous attempts to overturn the 2020 election, the former president is presumed innocent until proven guilty as are the other defendants.

But the audacious racketeering plot alleged in the Georgia indictment is a reminder of how a narcissistic defeated president engaged in a separate attempt to cling to power that continues to jeopardize American democracy. Whatever the outcome of this and the other prosecutions, Trump is a dangerous demagogue who should never return to the White House.

That, of course, is a decision that must be made by voters, including Republicans who need to get over their delusion—abetted by cowardly GOP politicians—that Trump won in 2020. But the fact that Trump is a candidate doesn't mean that state and federal prosecutors should stand back and not pursue criminal charges they believe are supported by the evidence.

Nor is the indictment handed up in Georgia on Monday night redundant. While the federal government charged only the former president in the effort to overturn the election, the Georgia grand jury has accused a collection of Trump supporters and operatives of taking part in a criminal enterprise to reverse legitimate results in Georgia. The defendants include two prominent Trump allies: former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

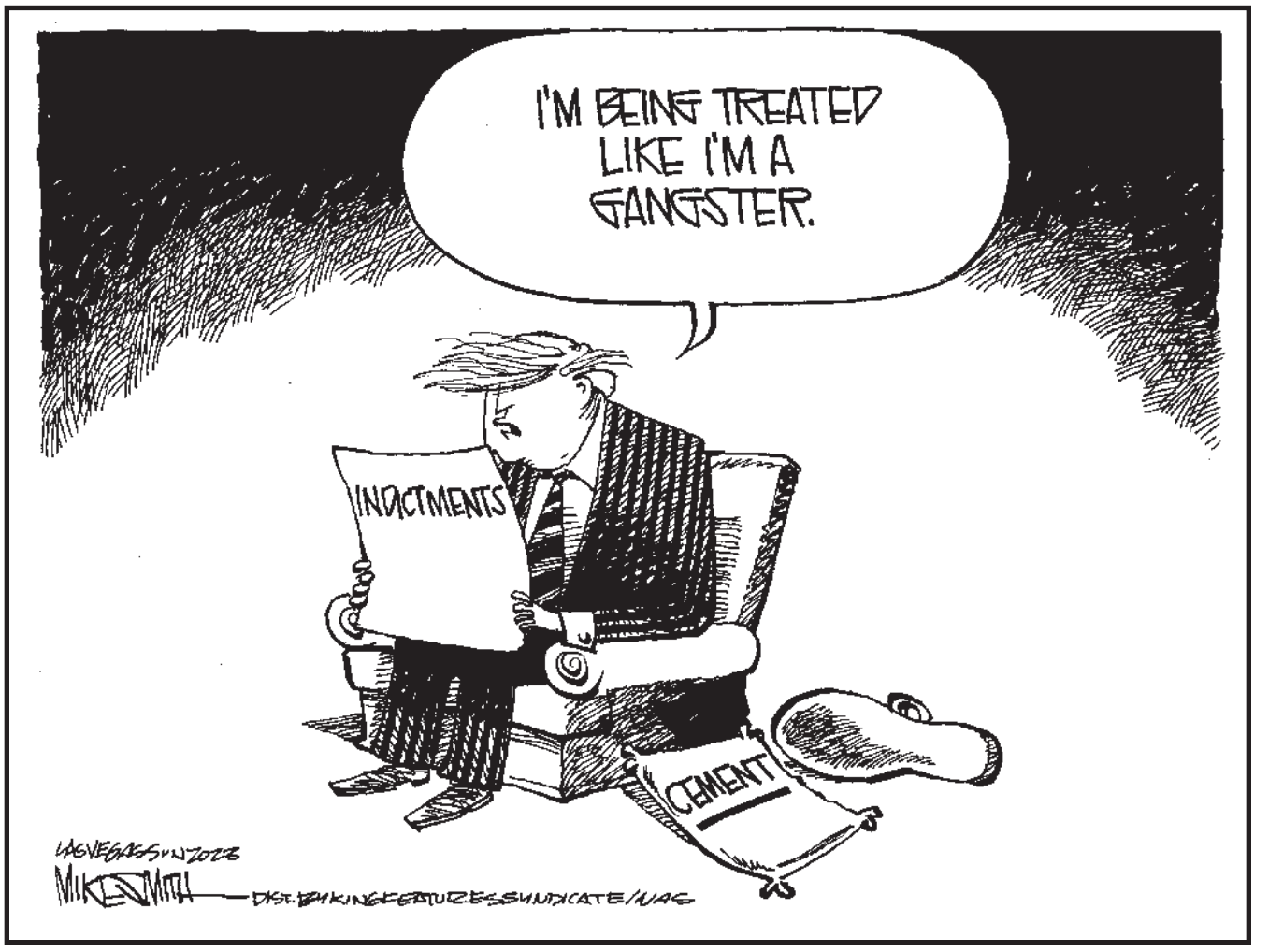
The indictment says that "Trump and the other defendants charged in this indictment refused to accept that Trump lost, and they knowingly and willfully joined a conspiracy to unlawfully change the outcome of the election in favor of Trump." It alleges a constellation of actions in furtherance of that objective. They include false statements, solicitation of an election official to violate his oath, machinations aimed at appointing false electors, harassment of an election worker and breaches of voting equipment. The indictment is exquisitely detailed and sobering to read.

It isn't piling on for authorities in Georgia to investigate and file charges in connection with an alleged attempt to overturn the will of that state's voters. In our federal system, prosecuting crimes—including those involving elections—is not the province only of the U.S. Justice Department.

Equally important, a conviction of Trump in a Georgia state court could not be erased by a presidential pardon if Trump were to return to office. In that sense it could constitute an insurance policy against Trump's abuse of the pardon power.

It's understandable that Americans, including those who never supported Trump, might be bewildered and exhausted by the multiplicity of charges leveled against the former president. They

See GEORGIA'S on Page 10



As tensions build between China and Taiwan, the US must maintain the status quo at all costs

By DANIEL DAVIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel Davis is a senior fellow for Defense Priorities and a former lieutenant colonel in the Army who deployed into combat zones four times. He is the author of The Eleventh Hour in 2020 America.

Taiwan recently conducted the first-ever "anti-takeover drill" at the island's main Taoyuan International Airport, reflecting the growing fears that China will soon launch an all-out war to seize Taiwan.

Unsurprisingly, China responded by sending 29 ships and planes on missions near Taiwan. Because the risks to the U.S. of getting drawn into such a conflict are high, President Joe Biden's administration should begin immediately to reassess its regional policies to ensure America's vital national interests are not unnecessarily harmed. The risks of such a clash are real and appear to be on the rise.

These events were preceded by 11 Chinese fighter planes crossing the median line between Taiwan and mainland China. These planes did something they had never done before: They flew up to the very edge of Taiwanese airspace, 12 miles off the coast. Last month, a record 16 Chinese warships sailed close to the Taiwanese coast. These are recent examples of escalating Chinese military actions that spiked after August 2022 when then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made an official visit to Taiwan.

Following that visit, China launched an impromptu five-day military exercise that featured 100 military aircraft, a large number of warships and multiple live missile tests in the waters on all sides of Taiwan. The exercise effectively simulated the opening rounds of an invasion of Taiwan. Meanwhile, Taiwan and the United States remain undeterred, both politically and militarily.

Last April, current House Speaker Kevin McCarthy met in California with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, predictably angering Beijing. This month, Taiwanese Vice President and 2024 presidential candidate William Lai Ching-te plans to visit the United States. China said it would seek to prevent the visit.

China continues not only conducting aggressive air and sea exercises in and around Taiwan but also expanding its ability to project power throughout the South China Sea area. It is expanding and modernizing its arsenal of nuclear missiles, and it continues to expand its already-large fleet of warships. According to a report recently released by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, China has been producing a large number of DF-17 and DF-26 medium- and long-range missiles that would allow them to attack U.S. naval vessels and air bases as far away as Guam.

Meanwhile, communication between the U.S. and Chinese militaries is virtually nonexistent at the highest levels. That is especially concerning in light of the recent spate of near collisions between U.S. and Chinese ships and planes. At the moment, tensions continue to ratchet up between Beijing and Washington, with both sides wanting to appear tough to deter the other from taking military action. The result, however, is making war more likely, not less. The United States must do something to lower tensions to maintain the peace in the Indo-Pacific while also retaining the ability to defend our interests.

Since 1971, U.S. policy toward China and Taiwan has been embodied in the "one China" principle. This intentionally ambiguous policy states that the U.S. will publicly recognize there is only one China and declare that we recognize Beijing as the rightful government of China—but refuse to acknowledge Chinese claims of control over Taiwan. Via the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, we agreed to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capacity."

For the last half century, the status quo among the United States, Taiwan and China has preserved the peace, safeguarded Taiwan's freedom and ability to flourish as a sovereign polity, and prevented periodic crises from exploding into open warfare. That status quo is the best guarantor of continued peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and Washington should do whatever it takes to ensure it continues into the indefinite future.

The U.S.-China bilateral relationship may be the most important in the world, as the two nations' economies and militaries are globally dominant. Last year, despite a considerable deterioration in the relationship, the trade between the two nations reached $690 billion, an all-time record. A war in the Taiwan Straits would be the worst possible outcome for the United States, Taiwan, China and the global economy. It must, therefore, be avoided at all costs.

It is important that Washington do all it can to protect our economic interests from Chinese espionage and our national security from any Chinese attacks. Robust competition with China is appropriate and necessary. Armed conflict is not. Maintaining the status quo indefinitely is the best path to securing American economic and military interests.

America is about to fall off a child care cliff

By KATHRYN A. EDWARDS
Bloomberg Opinion

Kathryn Anne Edwards is a labor economist and independent policy consultant.

There's an economic calamity approaching: At the end of September, pandemic-era federal funding for child care will expire, potentially leaving more than 3 million kids without a spot—and forcing many of their parents to drop out of the workforce.

Policymakers have seen this coming a mile away. Yet in a stark illustration of indifference and inconsistency, Congress has yet to intervene.

Child care isn't like airlines, for which the pandemic interrupted an otherwise sustainable and functioning business. It's a classic market failure: It's labor-intensive and hence too expensive for many parents at the start of their careers, and it provides broader social benefits that aren't reflected in the price. There is no recovery coming for child care, no market or technological breakthrough that will miraculously change the economics. Babies and toddlers need a lot of human attention.

By failing to act, US leaders are effectively signaling that the impending labor-market disaster doesn't matter. This contrasts starkly with their reaction back in 2021 to the end of another pandemic-related policy, the expanded Child Tax Credit. The credit had lifted millions of children out of poverty, reduced economic hardship and helped parents pay for basic necessities like food, rent and school supplies. Yet the concern that it might encourage some parents to leave the labor force, despite the lack of supporting evidence, proved reason enough to walk back a historic victory. This is America, people have to work.

But now, faced with the real prospect of millions leaving the work force, neither Congress nor the Biden administration has acted to secure emergency child care funding, despite the urgings of many legislators.

To be fair, the outcome is hard to predict. The child care industry has never had this much federal support, which means it's never had this much taken away. More than 80% of licensed providers received help of some kind over the past two years, reaching 9.6 million children. The three-million-spot forecast emerges from statistics, not experience. Some parents might be able to rely on family or informal care. Others might be priced out, even if their providers stay in business: About half of centers have said they will raise prices, and mothers' labor supply is highly sensitive to the price of care.

If most or all of the affected parents suddenly stop working, the labor force participation rate could quickly fall by a percentage point or more, an ominous development in a market where employers are already struggling to find workers. More likely, the effect will be subtle. The parents who lose care will be dispersed throughout the economy, across myriad industries, occupations, locations and employers. In the longer run, families will internalize the cost of child care the way they have for years: by having fewer children and working less.

Ultimately, only sustained government intervention can provide America with the child care it needs. Until its leaders recognize this and act, the entire country will pay the price—in missing workers, struggling families and prosperity lost.

Should we post our national motto in all public classrooms?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Since Aug. 1, all public K-12 schools, colleges and universities in Louisiana are required to display our national motto—In God We Trust—in every classroom.

Louisiana House Bill 8 specifies a "poster or framed document" measuring at least 11 by 14 inches, upon which the motto is printed in a "large, easily readable font." This law reflects a trend: In 2018 Florida required public schools to display the motto in every building, Arkansas enacted a similar law (2017) and South Dakota did the same in 2019.

In 2021 Texas lawmakers required all public schools and colleges to post the motto in a "conspicuous place" but only if the poster is donated. Recently the Texas legislature seriously considered mandating the posting of The Ten Commandments in every classroom, as well.

These efforts are generally pictured as benign and noncoercive. Debbie Horton, the Louisiana state representative who sponsored HB 8, told The Lafayette Daily Advertiser: "I'm not asking you to accept my God or pushing religion on anyone…I just want children to see that there is a creator. I don't see it as a controversial bill."

And, after all, "In God We Trust" is already ubiquitous in our society. Just look at the dollar bills in your wallet.

Still, one wonders if this is a good idea. Trusting God takes place in the heart, and it's probably presumptuous to make repetitive assertions of collective piety in classrooms and on dollar bills on behalf of a nation that—to be honest—doesn't do that great a job of trusting God.

Besides, has anyone considered what the Almighty thinks about the casual appropriation of His or Her name for a national slogan on every dollar bill?

Jesus wasn't fond of the root of all evil. He didn't express any desire to replace Caesar's image on Roman coins with his own. Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple with a whip, and he generally denounced laying up treasures on earth instead of in heaven.

And yet money is the very vehicle by which most of us display our lack of trust in God by getting and spending as much as possible. Then we have the presumption to slap the Almighty's name on every dollar bill, whether it's dropped into a collection plate or slipped into a stripper's G-string.

But there's a bigger problem with the new Louisiana law: It's hard to see how requiring the display of "In God We Trust" in public classrooms doesn't violate the establishment clause of the Constitution's First Amendment, which seems to take the government out of the religion business or, at least, forbids favoring one religion over another.

Yet HB 8 will almost certainly survive in the courts, which have reliably ruled that expressions of religion toward ceremonial ends do not violate the Constitution. That's why our national legislative bodies, and many state legislatures, can open their sessions with a prayer offered up by a congressional chaplain. That's why "In God We Trust" has been engraved on our money since the Civil War without running afoul of the law.

Generally the courts have relied on a notion called "ceremonial deism," which holds that such acts as opening legislative sessions with a prayer or invoking God in our national motto do not violate the Constitution "chiefly because they have lost through rote repetition any significant religious content," as Justice William Brennan put it in 1984.

In other words, religious acts and expressions by the state are constitutional precisely because the religion has been drained out of them by overuse. How can that be good for religion?

Besides, if posting our national motto in every classroom is a good idea, why not require it in all public places? Why not in the offices of city hall, at the department of motor vehicles, in the tax office and in public libraries?

House Bill 8's sponsor answers this question: "I want children to see that there is a creator." In other words, the bill is meant to be instructional—at taxpayers' expense—rather than ceremonial.

And how does that not violate the separation of church and state?

Waving allows us to connect in a simple, feel-good way

By JIM NOWLAN
Chicago Tribune

Jim Nowlan lives in Princeton, Illinois. His latest book is Politics—The Starter Kit: How to Succeed in Politics and Government.

Not long ago, I moved from a tiny town to a small city of about 8,000 people in central Illinois to be closer to the action. You know: band concerts, ice cream socials, veterans' sandwich sales in the park and even a professional summer theater festival, as well as a mayor who personally waters the huge flower-bedecked urns along Main Street. (Talk about good politics.)

A broken-down professor, I have been conducting a social science experiment in and around my new town. My finding to date: Waving is good; more would be better.

An inveterate walker, I give a rather hearty wave to every car and pedestrian I confront along city streets, country roads, park lanes and rails-to-trails paths. Nine of 10 folks I meet wave back. The fraction may be higher, but the sun's glare on windshields sometimes blocks my view.

Some wavers seem a bit startled. After all, they neither know me from Adam, nor whether I am progressive, a Donald Trump supporter or maybe even a believer in QAnon. Yet wave back, they do. Most accompany their wave with a smile, which is an added bonus. The only thing they know is that I am a human, like them, and, somehow, we're all in this together.

There are different waves. Fortunately, I have not received anything close to the tortured figure-S wave of beauty pageant contestants atop parade convertibles. The most rewarding wave is from people in cars, windows down, when each person in front enthusiastically shoots an arm way out, at roughly 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock, and twirls an arm, always nodding or smiling as well. I call it the "all-American wave."

I am always pleased with the "sight-unseen wave." When I hear a car coming up from behind while I'm walking, I wave, the auto still behind me. Almost always, the driver waits until he or she is passing me by, then the hand comes out the window, enthusiastically. People seem to want to wave, if prompted.

There have also been grudging waves, but waves nonetheless. Take the wizened old farmer in his seed corn cap, astride the cab of his fully loaded Ford 250 quad cab pickup.

I sensed from a distance he was determined not to wave. His right hand tightly gripped the very top of the steering wheel. So, as he came close, I waved again. Somehow, he couldn't help himself—eyes straight ahead, he briefly flicked up the index finger of his wheel-gripping hand. I counted it as a wave and call it "the grouchy old farmer wave." Waves should have names.

I was introduced to waving by the old black-and-white, cowboys-and-Indians Saturday matinees of my youth. Out on the Plains, a Native American chief—maybe it was Tonto, the Lone Ranger's companion—would solemnly hold up the flat of his right hand to approaching Indians. "We come in peace," said the hand. That was a wave. That's what waving is all about.

I began waving as a rural state legislator, decades ago. Being neighborly is good politics.

On our dominating, snark-infested social media platforms, the human touch is absent, and echo-chamber political sites stoke red-hot passions. Nothing neighborly here.

I don't mean to wax philosophical, yet the coming couple of years may be challenging for order in our democracy.

Waving is a healthy antidote. It might even be infectious. I don't expect this opinion piece to create a wave across the country. (Sorry, I couldn't help myself.) Yet, just maybe, more of this totally cost-free waving will remind us that, no matter our differences, we're all in this together. We should come in peace.

GEORGIA'S

From page 10

include allegations that he unlawfully retained national defense information and state charges in New York related to payments allegedly made during the 2016 presidential campaign to cover up an affair with a porn actress.

They should consider the possibility that the array of investigations and allegations represents not a political plot against the former president but an overdue reckoning for his own conduct.

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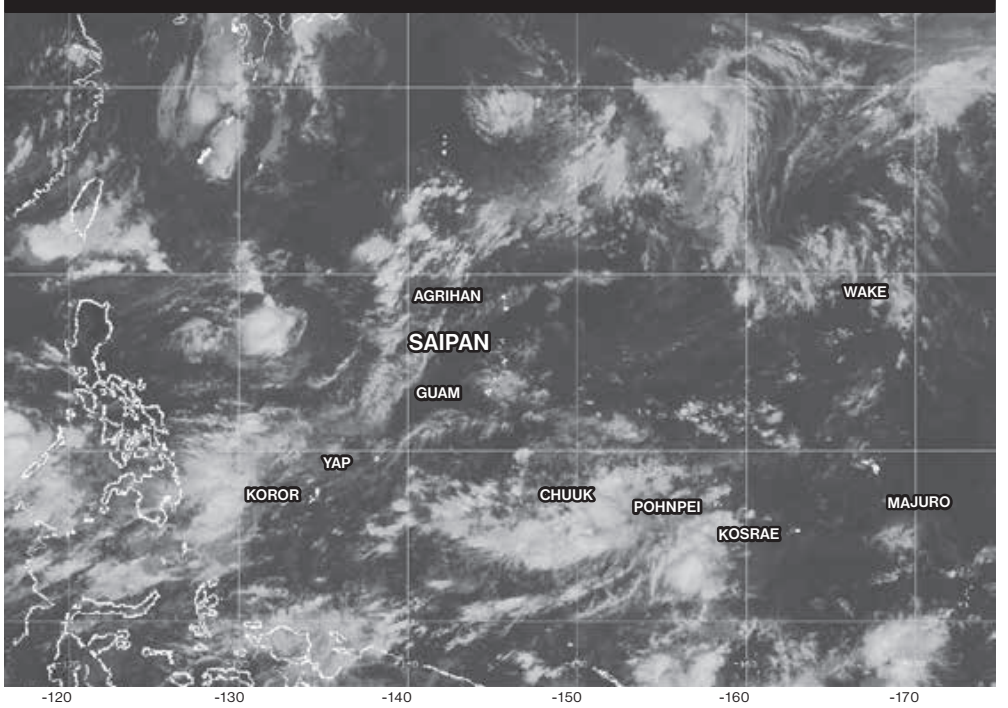
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers	Scattered showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88° 76°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:24 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Both radar and Satellite loops show some patchy showers approaching the coastal zones from the east. Surface winds are light southeast to east across the Marianas and Ipan buoy shows combined seas around 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:16 AM	7:57 PM	-
Saturday	8:02 AM	8:30 PM	-
Sunday	8:48 AM	9:03 PM	-
Monday	9:35 AM	9:37 PM	-
Tuesday	10:23 AM	10:14 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	99° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 78°
London	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	94° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:58 AM	Low Tide	1.13
8:04 AM	High Tide	1.92
3:06 PM	Low Tide	0.20
9:40 PM	High Tide	1.89

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Nominations still open for Bridge of Light Award

Nominations for the 2023 Bridge of Light Award are still being accepted, so there is still ample time for everyone's to submit the names of their nominees before the deadline, according to award organizer Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

» Nomination deadline is Sept. 8

This annual award serves as a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and recognition of individuals who have dedicated themselves to assisting victims, survivors, and the community in their unwavering commitment to end domestic and sexual violence in the CNMI.

"We strongly encourage people to submit their nominations and be a part of this meaningful recognition process," said the coalition in a news release last Wednesday.

The Bridge of Light Award, presented by NMCADSV, honors one exceptional individual in the CNMI who has displayed extraordinary dedication in ensuring community safety, actively addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, and acting as a "Bridge of Light" and support for victims and survivors. This award serves as a testament to the remarkable efforts and achievements of the chosen recipient.

Eligible candidates for the 2023 Bridge of Light Award include individuals actively contributing as service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers within one or more eligible agencies, organizations, or offices in the CNMI. Nominees must have a minimum employment or volunteer duration of one year and/or demonstrate one or more significant accomplishments that contribute to sustaining the movement. Additionally, nominees should exhibit unwavering commitment and effort in areas such as leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations can be submitted by victims or survivors, family members, or friends of victims or survivors, as well as members, representatives, and employees, representatives, and volunteers from eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices.

To nominate a deserving individual, visit the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=h4NzUJCa9sFus236pnlEEA_3D_3D. The deadline to complete the nomination form is Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at 11:59pm.

During the evaluation process, nominations will be thoroughly reviewed based on the information provided in the form. It is strongly encouraged that nominators provide specific and comprehensive details to effectively demonstrate why their nominee deserves this prestigious award.

The recipient of the 2023 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October. Furthermore, the awardee will be granted an exclusive opportunity to participate in a national training program provided by NMCADSV, in addition to receiving self-care prizes sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Bridge Capital, LLC.

For further information about the 2023 Bridge of Light Award or to inquire about the nomination process, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or via email at info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PUTI'ON TWIN HULL
NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING
MINIMUM BID: $15,000.00

Year: 1984; Official No. 677731; Call Sign: WCZ5662; Service: Passenger
Hull Material: Wood; Horsepower: 530; Propulsion: Diesel
Gross Tonnage: 99 GRT; Net Tonnage: 85 NRT; Length: 83.6; Breadth: 30.0; Depth: 11.0

For more information

Pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment in Commonwealth Ports Authority v. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., Civ. No. 18-0498, notice is given of the auction of the vessel owned by Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., to be sold at auction by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Risk of loss remains with Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc. until the winning bidder's bid is approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court after which time the winning bidder shall assume ownership and responsibility for the vessel. By submitting a bid and if accepted, the winning bidder agrees to accept full risk and responsibility of the vessel once approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court, including compliance with CNMI and Federal/USCG laws and regulations.

Please contact Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750, Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. **Minimum bid for the Puti'on Twin Hull is $15,000.00.** Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4:30 pm on **September 7, 2023.** Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on **September 8, 2023.** The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A "Puti'on Twin Hull" bid form can be obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, through its Counsel at Robert T. Torres Law Office, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 500730 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instructions

1. This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be sealed and submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan with a copy valid Identification Card or Passport.
2. The Puti'on Twin Hull is offered for bid and sale **"As Is"** and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as a twin hull motor craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
3. If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and shall be responsible for the removal of the vessel within three (3) working days of court approval. Otherwise, the next highest bidder shall be considered.
4. A winning bid shall be paid by Cash or Cashier's Check within three (3) working days of notice to the winning bidder. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
5. Inspection: Any person wishing to inspect the Puti'on Twin Hull may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to request an inspection at least two (2) days prior to inspection.
6. **ALL BIDS ARE FINAL.**

Commercial Space for Lease

Horiguchi Building
Located in Garapan, Beach Road,
south of Kristo Rai Church
Monthly Rental Amount - $2.50 sq. ft
Includes water and CUC power, back-up generator,
and ample parking space.

Fuji Pacific Inc.
Contact: (670) 287-6423 for more information.

Business

Enjoy a culinary journey at The Terrace Restaurant

Satisfy your international cravings at The Terrace Restaurant, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan with newly launched buffet themes featuring an incredible selection of international and local favorites.

Every Monday and Tuesday chefs Luis Santos and Jesse Aguon bring you a taste of Italy with ''Italia Mia" featuring the best of Italy including Tuscan style steak, pizza, bruschetta, and a live pasta station. For dessert, enjoy an authentic gelato station, bomboloni alla nutella, and tiramisu.

Prepare your appetite for a ''Smoked Meats Feast" every Wednesday and Thursday with executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane's mouth watering smoked meat selection at the live carving station. Fresh smoked in the resort by Tomokane and his team, the smoked meats are a favorite with visitors and a signature of the restaurant.

The team takes you on a journey to Japan on Fridays and Saturdays with ''Plaza Izakaya" featuring favorites like fresh sushi and sashimi, shrimp and vegetable tempura, Japanese curry, miso soup and more.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Terrace's signature smoked meats at the Sunday Brunch's live carving station.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's The Terrace offers daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Enjoy a sushi and sashimi station every Friday and Saturday during the Plaza Izakaya themed buffet at The Terrace.

Make your Sundays special with the highlight of the week— Sunday Brunch at The Terrace. The Sunday Brunch buffet is packed with signature items and favorites like the live carving of fresh smoked meat, roast pig, baked local fish, snow crab legs on ice, live pasta and omelet stations, and more to choose from. To complete your meal, finish with desserts like blueberry cheesecake, crème brulee, bread pudding, a gelato station with fresh waffle cones, and more. Sunday Brunch is inclusive of free-flowing beer, red and white wine, sparkling wine, special cocktails and mimosas.

To round your Sunday off just right don't miss the ''Flavors of the Sea" dinner buffet. The newly launched evening is catching on quickly with an international buffet featuring delicious seafood along with all The Terrace restaurant favorites.

Tomokane, said "We aim to give our guests great quality and a wonderful experience with every meal at The Terrace. Our culinary team is looking forward to utilizing their experience to deliver authentic international cuisine to take our guests on a culinary journey"

The Terrace Restaurant offers daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffet. Local residents can enjoy a 15% discount on their meals.

Breakfast is from Monday to Sunday, 6:30am-10am, $35 per adult and 50% off per child (4-11 years old).

Lunch is served from Monday to Saturday, 11am–2pm, and costs $40 per adult and 50% off per child (4-11 years old).

Dinner from Sunday to Thursday is from 5:30pm to 9:30pm and is $40 per adult and 50% per child (4-11 years old),

For Fridays and Saturdays, the premium dinner buffet is from 5:30pm to 9:30pm and is inclusive of draft beer, red and white wine, tea, coffee, and soft drinks. It costs $58 per adult and 50% off per child (4-11 years old).

Sunday Brunch is from 11am to 2pm and also comes with free-flowing beer, red and white wine, sparkling wine, special cocktails and mimosa. It costs $65 per adult and $25 per child (4-11 years old)

For reservations, email restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call (670) 234-6412.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

National Association of Realtors announces 2024 Leadership Academy Class

CHICAGO—The National Association of Realtors announced its 2024 Leadership Academy class. Twenty Realtors from across the country have been chosen to participate in the year-long program, which prepares emerging state and local volunteers for future leadership positions at NAR.

Felix

"The Leadership Academy serves as an invaluable platform, nurturing our emerging leaders and equipping them to shape the ever-evolving terrain of American real estate," said 2024 NAR president Tracy Kasper. "The diverse backgrounds and perspectives of this year's Leadership Academy class are a testament to NAR's commitment to inclusive growth, representation and professional development. This class is poised to bring about meaningful change at the local, state and national levels."

These 20 Realtors will participate in a diverse range of educational experiences as they join a nationwide community of volunteer leaders. Participants will learn the history, structure and inner workings of NAR while gaining key insights designed to prepare them to serve in prominent leadership roles at all levels of the association.

The 2024 NAR Leadership Academy roster is as follows:

- Susan Annoura (Texas)
- Marvette Artis (North Carolina)
- Janette DeWitt (Kentucky)
- Marc Dickow (California)
- Dominique Felix (Guam)
- Todd Henson (Missouri)
- Felicia Mares (California)
- Christopher Matos-Rogers (Georgia)
- Tikola McCree (North Carolina)
- Carlos Melendez (Florida)
- Jason Miller (Minnesota)
- Suzanne Miller (Illinois)
- Billie Parrott (Montana)
- Chandra Patterson (Virginia)
- Crissy Rumford (Colorado)
- PJ Smith (Florida)
- Erin Stumpf (California)
- Annette Wedgewood (Wyoming)
- Katherine Wright (Georgia)
- Brandy Wuensch (Texas)

The program begins in January and culminates November 2024 at NAR NXT, The REALTOR® Experience, in Boston. For more information about NAR's Leadership Academy, including individual session summaries and resources for prospective 2025 applicants, visit nar.realtor/leadershipacademy. The application period for the 2025 class runs from December 2023 through February 2024.

The National Association of Realtors is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.5 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries. The term Realtor is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of Realtors® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics. ***(PR)***

BOH provides assistance programs for those impacted by Maui wildfires

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawai'i is announcing financial assistance programs to help Maui residents affected by the ongoing wildfires.

"The devastation unfolding on Maui is heartbreaking for all of us. While we are only just beginning to comprehend the great loss to our community, our hope is that residents can find some immediate relief through these programs that provide financial assistance during this unimaginable time," said Peter Ho, chairman, CEO and president of Bank of Hawai'i.

The programs allow financial relief on an existing Bank of Hawai'i loan through an extension or forbearance for Maui residents.

Forbearance Program:

- Provides loan forbearance for up to 6 months for residential mortgages, home equity loans and home equity lines.
- Following the end of the forbearance period, Bank of Hawai'i will work with you to resolve any unpaid payments.
- Fees accrued during the forbearance period are waived.
- Loans must be less than 30 days past due prior to the wildfires.

Extension Program:

- Provides a loan extension for up to 3 months for products, including: direct installment (personal loans) and indirect loans (auto).
- Principal and interest payments will be deferred for the term of the extension.
- Full payments are due on the first due date following the end of the term of the extension.
- Loans must be less than 30 days past due prior to the wildfires.

For payment relief on an existing Bank of Hawai'i loan or line, call 800-888-9275 or 808-694-1500. For real estate loans, please call 877-926-7297 or 808-694-7297.

Details are also available at http://www.boh.com/maui-relief or by visiting a Bank of Hawai'i branch. ***(PR)***

Nation

AS MAUI WILDFIRE DEATH COUNT REACHES 110

Schools reopening, traffic moving again in signs of recovery

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)—Public schools on Maui started the process of reopening and traffic resumed on a major road in signs of recovery a week after wildfires demolished a historic town and killed at least 110 people, while the head of the island's emergency agency said he had "no regret" that sirens weren't sounded to warn people about the onrushing flames.

At least three schools untouched by flames in Lahaina, where entire neighborhoods were reduced to ash, were still being assessed after sustaining wind damage, Hawaii Department of Education superintendent Keith Hayashi said.

"There's still a lot of work to do, but overall the campuses and classrooms are in good condition structurally, which is encouraging," Hayashi said in a video update. "We know the recovery effort is still in the early stages, and we continue to grieve the many lives lost."

Elsewhere crews cleaned up ash and debris at schools and tested air and water quality. Displaced students who enroll at those campuses can access services such as meals and counseling, Hayashi said. The education department is also offering counseling for students, family members and staff.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency opened its first disaster recovery center on Maui, "an important first step" toward helping residents get information about assistance, FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell said. They also can go there for updates on aid applications.

Criswell said she would accompany President Joe Biden on Monday when he visits to survey the damage and "bring hope."

At a news conference, Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency administrator, defended not sounding the sirens during the fire. "We were afraid that people would have gone mauka," he said, using the Hawaiian directional term that can mean toward the mountains or inland. "If that was the case then they would have gone into the fire."

There are no sirens in the mountains, where the fire was spreading downhill.

Hawaii created what it touts as the largest system of outdoor alert sirens in the world after a 1946 tsunami that killed more than 150. Andaya said they are primarily meant to warn about tsunamis and have never been used for wildfires. The website for the Maui siren system says they may be used to alert for fires.

Beyond the decision to not use sirens, state and local officials have faced public criticism over shortages of available water to fight the fire and a chaotic evacuation that saw many trapped in their vehicles on a jammed roadway as flames swept over them.

Avery Dagupion, whose family's home was destroyed, is angry that residents weren't given earlier warning to get out and that officials prematurely suggested danger had passed.

He pointed to an announcement by Maui Mayor Richard Bissen on Aug. 8 saying the fire had been contained, "instilling a false hope in residents of Lahaina," when hours later the fire exploded. That, he said, lulled people into a sense of safety and adds to the mistrust that he and others have over officials' efforts now.

At the news conference, Gov. Josh Green and Bissen bristled when asked about that mistrust and how they can assure the public they will do all that's needed to help the community rebuild.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP23-GOV/OGM-42300087

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"2023 ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 150 KW EXECUTIVE BUILDING SOLAR PV DESIGN-BUILT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM-42300092

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"KOBLERVILLE CHILDREN'S INCLUSIVE PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Asia

Biden hopes to broker a breakthrough in Japan-S. Korea relations

WASHINGTON (AP)—Camp David, the rustic presidential retreat in the mountains of Maryland, has been a backdrop for signal moments in U.S. foreign policy, perhaps none more notable than the peace accord President Jimmy Carter brokered between Egypt and Israel in 1978.

On Friday, President Joe Biden will reach for his own place in Camp David lore, hoping that walks on leafy trails and necktie-free talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol will encourage the U.S. allies, who have been thawing their frosty relationship, to cooperate more given their shared concerns about aggression from China and North Korea.

It will be the first time that Biden has hosted world leaders at the secluded retreat nestled in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, about an hour's drive northwest of the White House.

Run by the Navy, guarded by Marines and less imposing than the White House, Camp David was a deliberate choice by a president who puts a premium on face-to-face interactions with his foreign counterparts, Biden aides said.

"One of the interesting things about Camp David is that it provides a less formal venue for presidents and their visitors to really get to know each other on a one-to-one basis," said Sarah Fling, a historian at the White House Historical Association.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and Margaret Thatcher, a successor to Churchill, are just a few of the storied world figures who have spent time at Camp David at the invitation of U.S. presidents.

President Barack Obama assembled leaders of the world's largest economies for a Group of Eight summit in 2012, the biggest foreign contingent to ever gather there.

President Donald Trump tweeted in September 2019 that he had canceled a secret meeting planned for Camp David with Taliban and Afghanistan leaders after an American soldier was among those killed in a bombing in Kabul.

To produce the Camp David Accords, Carter sought an intimate location, a place away from the press where he thought Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin would be encouraged to talk to one another. Unlike at the White House, where journalists come and go, the news media are barred from Camp David, unless they are invited to cover an event, like Friday's summit.

Three days were set aside for the talks, but the summit lasted nearly two weeks. The Camp David Accords were signed at the White House in March 1979.

AP

President George W. Bush, left, and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown walk to a joint press availability at Camp David, Md., July 30, 2007.

Camp David was established in 1942 during Franklin Roosevelt's presidency and has been used by every president since.

Roosevelt had liked to relax on a presidential yacht, but the military and Secret Service started to worry about his safety on the open water during World War II. Roosevelt asked the National Park Service to identify sites within 100 miles of the White House that he could use for rest.

He chose what is now known as Camp David. He gave it the original name of Shangri-La, from James Hilton's novel "Lost Horizon." President Dwight Eisenhower renamed it Camp David, after his grandson and father.

Roosevelt also set the precedent for hosting foreign leaders at Camp David, inviting Churchill to the retreat twice. In 1943, they discussed the Normandy invasion; Roosevelt also took the prime minister along on a fishing trip.

Eisenhower hosted Khrushchev for two days in 1959, the first time a Soviet leader had come to the United States. They watched American Western movies, among other activities.

Bill Clinton hoped to replicate Carter's feat by inviting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Camp David for a fresh round of Mideast peace talks in 2000. But after two weeks of talks, the summit ended without an agreement.

George W. Bush visited often, hosting an array of foreign leaders and spending Christmases with his family. Britain's Tony Blair was first to visit the newly elected Bush there in 2001.

When reporters asked the president to describe something that he and Blair found they had in common, Bush quipped, "We both use Colgate toothpaste."

"They're gonna wonder how you know that, George," Blair responded.

In addition to the G-8 summit, Obama hosted a group of Persian Gulf leaders in 2015.

But Camp David is more than just a place for presidents to hold sensitive diplomatic talks with foreign leaders or ponder issues of war and peace. Its primary function is as a place for presidents, and their families, to escape Washington, a place where they can be themselves and where they can rest, relax and recharge as much as a 24/7 president is allowed to.

The 180-acre (73-hectare) retreat has a cabin, named Aspen by first lady Mamie Eisenhower, that's reserved for the president, plus about a dozen other cabins for guests. There's a main lodge with conference rooms, a dining room and an office for the president.

Guests have a range of indoor and outdoor amenities at their disposal, including a fitness center, bowling alley, movie theater, heated swimming pool, and tennis and basketball courts. There's also a chapel for religious services.

India, China pledge to maintain 'peace and tranquility' along disputed border

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese and Indian military commanders pledged to "maintain the peace and tranquility" along their disputed border, China's Defense Ministry said, in an apparent effort by the sides to stabilize the situation after a rise in tensions.

China's Defense Ministry issued a joint statement on social media late Tuesday saying the 19th round of commander-level talks between the sides held on Sunday and Monday had produced a "positive, constructive and in-depth discussion" centered on resolving issues related to the Line of Actual Control in the border's western sector.

The statement said they "agreed to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner," but there is no indication that either side is willing to offer concessions. However, both appear eager to avoid the sort of clashes between their troops that have led to bloodshed in recent years.

"In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas," the statement said.

India's Defense Ministry issued an identical statement.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Wednesday praised the talks, held at the Indian army post in the town of Chushul-Moldo, and highlighted the two sides' commitment to "maintain the momentum of communication and dialogue through military and diplomatic channels."

The Line of Actual Control separates Chinese and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety. India and China fought a war over their border in 1962. As its name suggests, it divides the areas of physical control rather than territorial claims.

According to India, the de facto border is 3,488 kilometers (2,167 miles) long, but China promotes a considerably shorter figure.

In all, China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, including Arunachal Pradesh with its mainly Buddhist population.

India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau, which India considers part of Ladakh, where the current faceoff is happening.

China, in the meantime, began cementing relations with India's archrival Pakistan and backing it on the issue of disputed Kashmir.

Firefights broke out again in 1967 and 1975, leading to more deaths on both sides. They've since adopted protocols, including an agreement not to use firearms, but those protocols have fractured.

A clash three years ago in the Ladakh region killed 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese. It turned into a long-running standoff in the rugged mountainous area, where each side has stationed tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets.

Both India and China have withdrawn troops from some areas on the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra and Galwan Valley, but continue to maintain extra troops as part of a multi-tier deployment.

In April, India's defense minister accused China of eroding the "entire basis" of ties between the countries by violating bilateral agreements, during talks with his Chinese counterpart Gen. Li Shangfu.

India says the deployment of a large number of Chinese troops, their aggressive behavior and attempts to unilaterally alter the border status quo violate agreements between the countries.

Li was visiting New Delhi to attend a meeting of the defense chiefs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which consists of China, India, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Krgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

China appears to be building airstrip on disputed South China Sea island

BEIJING (AP)—China appears to be constructing an airstrip on a disputed South China Sea island that is also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan, according to satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press.

The work on Triton island in the Paracel group mirrors construction on seven human-made islands in the Spratly group to the east which have been equipped with airstrips, docks and military systems, although it currently appears to be somewhat more modest in scale.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own, denying the claims of others and defying an international ruling invalidating its assertion.

Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by the AP show construction on the airstrip first visible in early August. The runway, as currently laid out, would be more than 600 meters (2,000 feet) in length, long enough to accommodate turboprop aircraft and drones, but not fighter jets or bombers.

Also visible are large numbers of vehicle tracks running across much of the island, along with what appear to be containers and construction equipment.

Triton is one of the major islands in the Paracel group, which is roughly equidistant from the coast of Vietnam and China's island province of Hainan.

The U.S. takes no stance on the sovereignty claims, but regularly sends Navy ships on "freedom of navigation operations" near the Chinese-held islands. Triton was the focus of one of those missions in 2018.

China has had a small harbor and buildings on the island for years, along with a helipad and radar arrays. Two large fields on the island sport a star from the Chinese flag and a hammer and sickle representing the ruling Communist Party.

China has refused to provide details of its island construction work other than to say it is aimed at helping global navigation safety. It has rejected accusations that it is militarizing the crucial waterway, through which an estimated $5 trillion in trade passes annually, and says it has the right to do as it wishes in its sovereign territory.

China seized full control of the Paracels from Vietnam in a brief 1974 naval conflict.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia hits Ukrainian grain depots again

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian drones pounded grain storage facilities and ports along the Danube River that Ukraine has increasingly relied on as an alternative transport route to Europe, after Moscow broke off a key wartime shipping agreement using the Black Sea. At the same time, a loaded container ship stranded at the Black Sea port of Odesa since Russia's full-scale invasion more than 17 months ago set sail along a temporary corridor established by Ukraine for merchant shipping. Ukraine's economy, crunched by the war, is heavily dependent on farming. Its agricultural exports, like those of Russia, are also crucial for world supplies of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food that developing nations rely on. A month ago, the Kremlin tore up an agreement brokered last summer by the U.N. and Turkey to ensure safe Ukraine grain exports through the Black Sea. Since then, Kyiv has sought to reroute transport through the Danube and road and rail links into Europe. But transport costs that way are much higher, some European countries have balked at the consequences for local grain prices, and the Danube ports can't handle the same volume as seaports. Odesa Gov. Oleh Kiper said the primary targets of Russia's overnight drone bombardment were port terminals and grain silos, including at the ports in the Danube delta. Air defenses managed to intercept 13 drones over Odesa and Mykolaiv regions, according to the Ukraine Air Force's morning update. It was the latest attack amid weeks of aerial strikes as Russia has targeted the Danube delta ports, which are only about 15 kilometers (10 miles) from the border with Romania, a NATO member. The Danube is Europe's second-longest river and a key transport route.

Haiti gang leader vows to fight any foreign armed force if it commits abuses

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—An ex-police officer considered by many to be Haiti's most powerful gang leader warned Wednesday that he would fight any international armed force deployed to the Caribbean country if it committed any abuses. Jimmy Chérizier, best known as "Barbecue," also urged Haitians to mobilize against the government. "We are asking the population to rise up," he said at a news conference. Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who has led Haiti since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, has been pushing for the deployment of a foreign armed force since October to help fight powerful gangs that are estimated to now control 80% of the capital of Port-au-Prince. In late July, the African nation of Kenya offered to lead a multinational force, and the U.S. said earlier this month that it would put forward a resolution in the U.N. Security Council to authorize a non-U.N. multinational mission. Chérizier said he would welcome a foreign force if it were to arrest the prime minister and people he described as corrupt politicians and local police allegedly selling ammunitions and guns in Haiti's slums. "If the foreign force comes to help and provide security for life to start over again, we will also applaud," he said. But he said Haitians would rise up if any international force repeated the actions of previous U.N. peacekeepers, including committing sexual abuses and inadvertently introducing cholera into water sources. "We will fight against them until our last breath," he said. "It will be a fight of the Haitian people to save the dignity of our country." The United Nations had no comment, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. Chérizier, who has been accused by authorities of masterminding several massacres in recent years and of organizing a fuel blockade last year that paralyzed Haiti for nearly two months, said the group he leads, G9 Family and Allies, is no longer warring with another group known as G-Pep.

"We became one," he said. "We love life a lot." Chérizier is the only Haitian under U.N. sanctions, with the Security Council saying he "has engaged in acts that threaten the peace, security, and stability of Haiti and has planned, directed, or committed acts that constitute serious human rights abuses."

First major jihadi attack since coup kills 17 and wounds dozens in Niger, fueling Western fears

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—Insurgents killed 17 soldiers and wounded nearly 24 in the first major attack in half a year against the army in Niger, where Western powers fear a coup by the elite presidential guard last month is weakening a rare ally against jihadi violence in West Africa's Sahel region. Niger was one of the last democratic countries in the region south of the Sahara and France and the U.S. have about 2,500 military personnel there who were training Niger's forces. France also conducted joint operations with its former colony, but since the coup Paris and Washington have suspended military operations, giving the jihadis more breathing room. A military detachment was attacked Tuesday afternoon as it moved between the villages of Boni and Torodi in the Tillaberi region, the Ministry of Defense said on state television Tuesday. The wounded were evacuated to the capital, Niamey. It was the first major attack against Niger's army in six months, a worrying sign of possible escalation, said Wassim Nasr, a journalist and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center, a think tank. "What we are witnessing today is both jihadi warring factions, the Islamic State group and (al-Qaida affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin), marking their territory because of the security void caused by the coup. This definitely should be seen in the context of the ongoing war between the two groups," he said. Neighboring countries are threatening military action against the coup, whose supporters said Wednesday that they would register volunteers to fight and help with other needs so the junta has a list in case it needs to call on people. One organizer, Amsarou Bako, claimed that the junta is not involved in finding volunteers to defend the coup, although it is aware of the initiative. It's not clear how real the possibility of regional conflict is. Many Bazoum supporters have been silenced or gone into hiding, and rallies to support the president are quickly shut down by police. Several ministers and politicians from deposed President Mohamed Bazoum 's regime have been detained since the coup, with human-rights groups unable to access to access them.

In Loving Memory of

† Victor Santos Hocog

June 6, 1958 - August 16, 2023

Predeceased by:

Paternal grandparents:
+Victor Mesngon Hocog & +Josepha Toves Hocog

Maternal grandparents:
+Jose SM. Santos & Luise Concepcion Santos Ayuyu ("Bazinero")

Father:
+Luis Toves Hocog

Sister:
+ Rosaline Santos Hocog

Brother:
+Bernol Santos Hocog

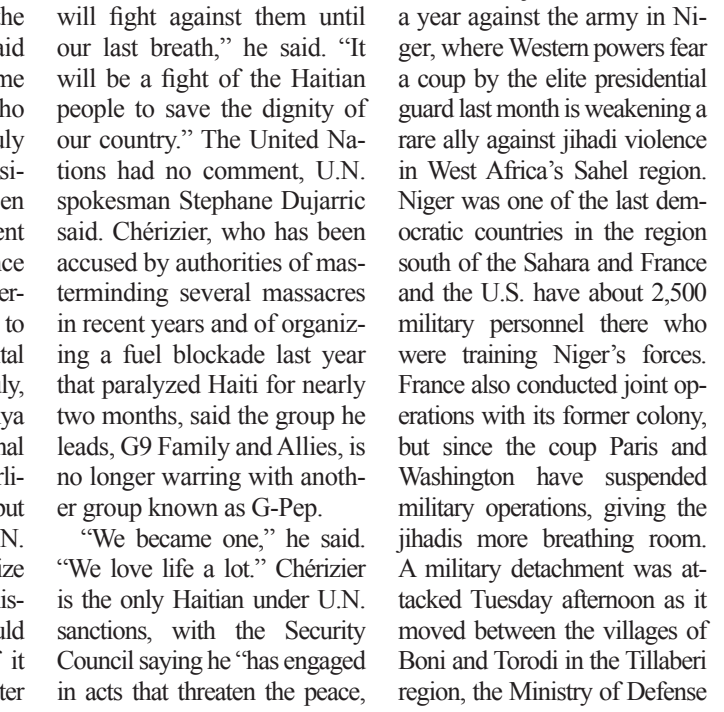
Brothers-in-law:
+Vicente L. Cruz
+Roque D. Mesa

Nieces and Nephews:
+Luis Christopher Hocog
(+Angel Samiliano, +Dannon Luis Samiliano)
+Ricky Ryan Mesa

Survived by:

Mother:
Lourdes Santos Hocog

Siblings/In-laws:
Linda Hocog Cruz
Lillian Hocog Mesa
Rosalina Santos Hocog
Josepha Santos Hocog
Jose Luis Santos Hocog/Yvette Leilani Hocog
Jeffrey Santos Hocog
Lucy Ann Santos Hocog
Norma Jean Santos Hocog
Teddy Santos Hocog/Marie U. Hocog



Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 am at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

On **Monday, August 28, 2023,** holy rosary will be recited at **7:00 am at CHCC Morgue.** Responso will be held at **8:00 am** at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Funeral mass will be held at **10:00 am** followed by burial services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Ginen y Familia.

Robert Tenorio Torres - F0197
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 21-0169**
vs.	]	
EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA,	]	**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING DEFAULT JUDGMENT**
and	]	
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest,	]	
Defendants.	]	

This matter came before the Court on July 31, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. for a hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above caption matter. Robert T. Torres, Esq. appeared on behalf of Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT). Defendants Edwin B. Tudela and Patricia A. Tudela were served with the Notice of Hearing on the Motion for Default Judgment through Saipan Tribune newspapers. Defendant Pentecostal Church of Christ through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, were e-served with the Motion and its attachments along with the Notice of Hearing on the Motion through their counsel of record, Attorney Joey Patrick San Nicolas. Defendants Edwin and Patricia Tudela did not appear to attend the hearing.

Based on the representation of Plaintiff's counsel and the files and records of this case, Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment is hereby **GRANTED**, and the Court enters Judgment against the Defendants **Mr. and Mrs. Tudela** as follows:

1. Loan number: MPLT-014 Judgment shall be entered against Defendants Edwin and Patricia Tudela and in favor of Plaintiff for the outstanding balance of the Note secured by Lot 002 F 55 (formerly Block 13 Lot 11), located in San Jose, Saipan, inclusive of the attorney's fees and costs calculation as of May 4, 2023, when filing the Motion. The breakdown as follows:
   - a) Principal amount as of 5/04/2023 ..... $19,351.69[1]/
   - b) Pre-Judgment Int at 2.00% as of 5/04/2023 ..... $ 2,042.68
   - c) Late Fees as of 5/04/2023 ..... $1,010.32
   - d) Unpaid Late Charges..... $96.88
   - e) Unpaid Insurance $670.13
   - f) For Court Costs $225.00
   - g) Attorney's fees/costs approved for the Motion $9,119.08

   TOTAL JUDGMENT **$32,515.78**
2. That post-judgment interest shall accrue on the judgment amount and/or any unpaid balance at the rate of 3% per annum from the Judgment Order date until the account is fully satisfied.
3. Pursuant to 2 CMC §4537(d), Defendants Mr. And Mrs. Tudela have three (3) months from the date of this Order to satisfy in full the foregoing judgment.
4. Failure to do so within a three-month period shall entitle Plaintiff to seek an order from this Court that Defendants' interest on the mortgaged property shall be sold in accordance with 2 CMC § 4537 (e).
5. That Plaintiff shall be entitled to additional attorney's fees and costs incurred from May 5, 2023, through the foreclosure proceeding if the judgment is not satisfied.

SO ORDERED on this 7th day of August 2023.

/s/ _____
Kenneth T. Govendo, Associate Judge

[1] Defendants retains the right to cure the default under 2 CMC § 4536 (a) which states the following:

"Whenever there has been a failure by the mortgagor(s) to pay obligations in accordance with the terms of the mortgage, including circumstances where all or a portion of the principal sum secured by the mortgage has, prior to the fixed maturity date become due or been declared due by reason of the mortgagor's default, the mortgagor or his or her successor in interest in the mortgaged property or any part thereof, or any other person having a subordinate lien or encumbrance in it may at any time prior to the foreclosure sale, pay to the mortgagee or successor in interest, the entire amount then due under the terms of the mortgage other than such portion of principal as would not then bedue had no default occurred, and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred."

Off The Wall

Snake camps out in toilet

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Like a scene out of a horror movie, Michelle Lespron returned to her Tucson, Arizona, home to find a snake had set up camp in her toilet.

"I'd been gone for four days and was looking forward to using my own restroom in peace. I lifted up the lid and he or she was curled up," Lespron told The Associated Press. "Thank God the lid was closed."

The hiss-sterical encounter happened July 15. But Lespron has been getting messages from family, friends and even people she went to high school with since Rattlesnake Solutions, a Phoenix-based company that removed the snake, recently posted an employee's video.

The 20-second video shows the snake being pulled out of the toilet bowl and then hissing straight at the camera.

"Everybody has the same reaction: Oh my god that's my worst nightmare," she said.

Other people thought it was a prank video and the snake was a prop. "Even my law partner was like 'Ha ha. Nice gag,'" Lespron, a personal injury attorney, said.

Lespron says her father tried to wrangle the snake that same night but it slithered away. So, she called Rattlesnake Solutions the next morning.

NIKOLAUS KEMME/RATTLESNAKE SOLUTIONS VIA AP

This photo provided by Phoenix-based Rattlesnake Solutions shows one of their employees holding a coachwhip snake found inside a toilet in a home in Tucson, Ariz., on July 16, 2023.

It took the handler—who Lespron calls "my hero"—three tries to get the black and pink coachwhip snake firmly in his grasp. He was able to wrestle the snake with one hand while capturing it all on his cellphone with the other.

The handler later released the snake, which measured between 3 feet (1 meter) and 4 feet (1.2 meters) long, in a natural habitat elsewhere.

Bryan Hughes, the owner of Rattlesnake Solutions, said it wasn't the first time his staff have seen a coachwhip snake in a home though it's rare to find reptiles in residences.

Fortunately for Lespron, the species is non-venomous. Still, she was taking no chances.

Woman finds live frog in spinach container

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP)—A woman in suburban Detroit said she got a scare when she discovered a live frog in a container of spinach purchased from a grocery store.

Amber Worrick of Southfield said she bought the sealed Earthbound Farm spinach package earlier this week from a Meijer store, WJBK-TV reported. When she got home, her daughter found a live frog in the container and screamed, Worrick said.

"It was alive and moving," Worrick said. "Just thank God I didn't eat the frog."

Worrick said she immediately returned the package and the frog to the store. Workers there released the frog and gave her a refund, she said.

The TV station's video showed the frog in a sealed container.

Jennifer Holton, a spokesperson with the Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, told the Detroit Free Press that the store shouldn't have released the frog because authorities now don't know whether it's native to the state.

She said the department referred the incident to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Meijer officials said the frog was relocated to a new home outdoors.

Officials at California-based Taylor Farms, which owns Earthbound Farm, apologized in a statement and promised to continue to provide "the freshest, finest quality veggies for consumers."

Video shows 3 humpbacks jump in unison, a birthday surprise for man and daughters

PORSTMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire man celebrating his birthday on the ocean with his three daughters captured video of something so rare that even marine scientists are jealous — three humpback whales leaping from the water in near perfect unison.

"It was such an uplifting thing to see. Just incredible," Robert Addie said.

The Portsmouth man, now a home remodeler, spent decades on the water as a commercial fisherman in Massachusetts and Alaska. In that time, he said he's seen thousands of whales.

But he never witnessed anything like Monday's whale encounter on a tuna fishing trip off Cape Cod. The excursion with his daughters was for his 59th birthday, as well as to celebrate his safe return from a humanitarian aid trip to Ukraine where he came under heavy artillery fire.

During the fishing trip, he was trying to film some humpback whales about 300 yards (275 meters) from their boat and was having no luck, until he got what he called a "whale ballet."

"A triple breach is unheard of and a synchronized triple breach is even rarer," he said. "It's once in a lifetime. Just very fortunate. I feel God shined down on me to allow me to to capture that."

To add to the thrill, seconds after the three whales breached and twisted through the air, a juvenile whale did the same thing. Whale experts later told Addie that the aerial maneuvers may have been an attempt to remove parasites or aid digestion.

He has another theory: "I have a feeling that maybe they were teaching or training" the younger whale.

Those same experts also know how rare the spectacle was.

"Even some of the whale experts that have reached out to me, they're all jealous because they've never seen it," Addie said.

Science & Technology

A fresh look at Oetzi's DNA

NEW YORK (AP)—Oetzi the Iceman has a new look. Decades after the famous glacier mummy was discovered in the Italian Alps, scientists have dug back into his DNA to paint a better picture of the ancient hunter.

They determined that Oetzi was mostly descended from farmers from present day Turkey, and his head was balder and skin darker than what was initially thought, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Cell Genomics.

Oetzi, who lived more than 5,000 years ago, was frozen into the ice after he was killed by an arrow to the back. His corpse was preserved as a "natural mummy" until 1991, when hikers found him along with some of his clothing and gear — including a copper ax, a longbow and a bearskin hat. Since then, many researchers have worked to uncover more about the mummy, which is displayed at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, Italy.

An earlier draft of Oetzi's genome was published in 2012. But ancient DNA research has advanced since then, so scientists decided to take another look at the iceman's genes, explained study author Johannes Krause, a geneticist at Germany's Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. They used DNA extracted from the mummy's hip bone.

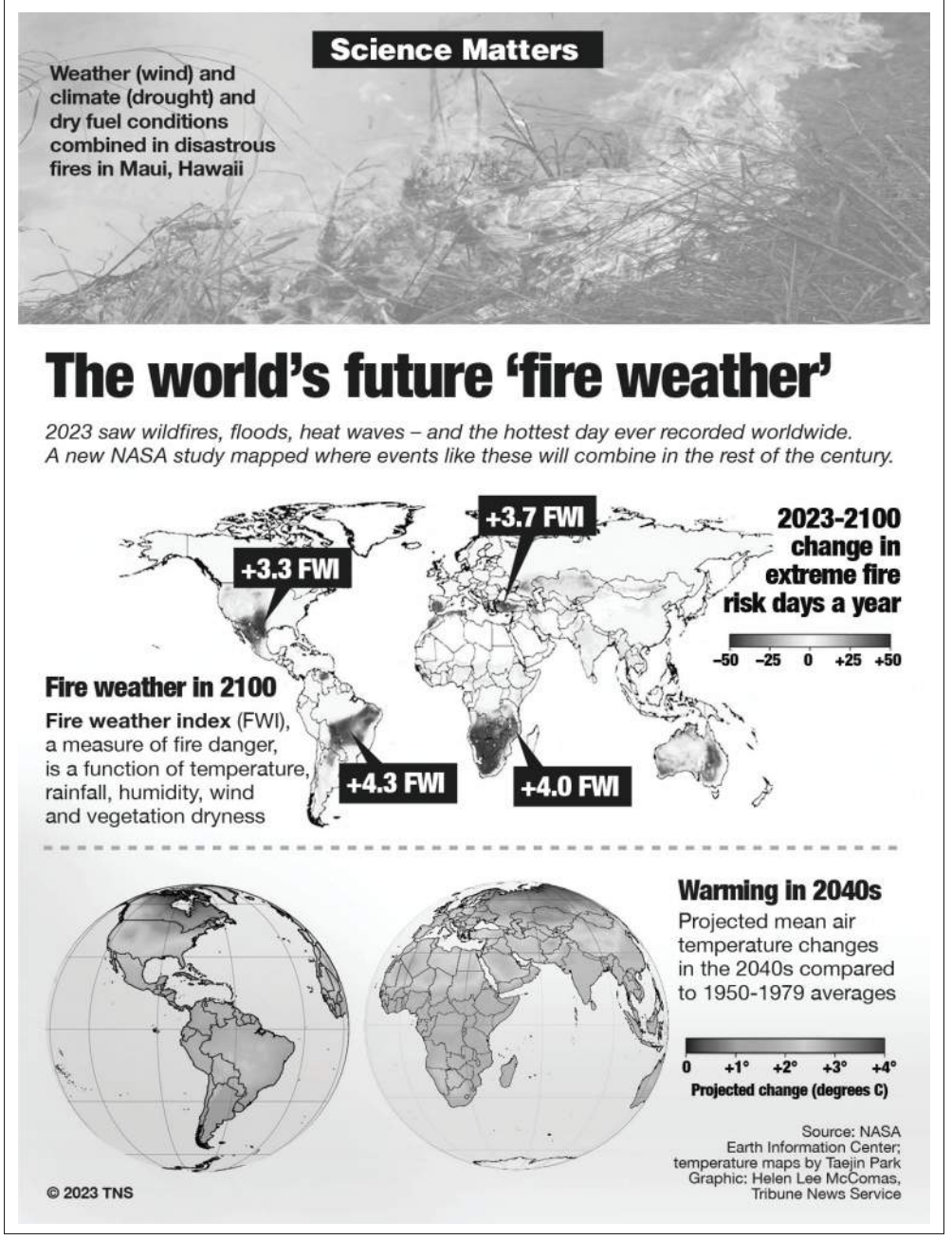
AP

This photo provided by The South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology shows "Oetzi the Iceman," one of the oldest human glacier mummies.

The updated genome is "providing deeper insights into the history of this mummy," said Andreas Keller of Germany's Saarland University. Keller worked on the earlier version but was not involved with the latest study.

Based on the new genome, Oetzi's appearance when he died around age 45 was much like the mummy looks today: It's dark and doesn't have much hair on it, said study author Albert Zink, head of the Institute for Mummy Studies at Eurac Research in Italy. Scientists previously thought the iceman was lighter-skinned and hairier in life, but that his mummified corpse had changed over time.

His genome also showed an increased chance of obesity and diabetes, the researchers reported.


Science Matters
Weather (wind) and climate (drought) and dry fuel conditions combined in disastrous fires in Maui, Hawaii
The world's future 'fire weather'
2023 saw wildfires, floods, heat waves – and the hottest day ever recorded worldwide.
A new NASA study mapped where events like these will combine in the rest of the century.
+3.3 FWI
+3.7 FWI
+4.3 FWI
+4.0 FWI
2023-2100 change in extreme fire risk days a year
-50 -25 0 +25 +50
Fire weather in 2100
Fire weather index (FWI), a measure of fire danger, is a function of temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind and vegetation dryness
Warming in 2040s
Projected mean air temperature changes in the 2040s compared to 1950-1979 averages
0 +1° +2° +3° +4°
Projected change (degrees C)
Source: NASA Earth Information Center; temperature maps by Taejin Park
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
© 2023 TNS

Life & Style

Britney Spears' husband files for divorce, source tells AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears ' husband Sam Asghari has filed for divorce from the superstar 14 months after a they were married, a person familiar with the filing said late Wednesday.

The person, who is close to Asghari but not authorized to speak publicly, confirmed the filing happened Wednesday, hours after several outlets including TMZ and People magazine reported the couple had separated.

An email sent to a Spears representative was not immediately returned. Court records in Los Angeles and Ventura counties did not show where the case had been filed.

Spears married Asghari at her home in Thousand Oaks, California, on June 9, 2022 in front of guests including Selena Gomez, Drew Barrymore, Paris Hilton and Madonna, in a wedding seen as a milestone in her newly reclaimed life after the dissolution just six months earlier of the court conservatorship that controlled her life for more than 13 years.

The pop superstar met and began dating Asghari, a model and actor, when he appeared in her video for the song "Slumber Party" in 2016.

She cited her desire to marry Asghari as among the reasons she wanted an end to the constraining conservatorship, which she said was preventing it. The two announced their engagement in September of 2021 as it became clear she would be freed from the conservatorship—which was ended that November.

Spears said she and Asghari lost a baby early in her pregnancy in May 2022, about a month before they married.

Reports of the couple's struggles had increased in recent months.

JORDAN STRAUSS/AP

Britney Spears and Sam Asghari appear at the Los Angeles premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" on July 22, 2019.

Their marriage is the first for the 29-year-old Asghari and the third for the 41-year-old singer. She was married for less than three days in 2004 to childhood friend Jason Alexander, who attempted to crash her wedding to Asghari and was later convicted of misdemeanor trespassing and battery.

In 2004, she wed dancer Kevin Federline. Their three-year marriage would come at a time of intense media scrutiny and increasing mental health struggles for Spears. Federline is the father of her two teenage sons, and has custody of the boys.

She would be placed in the conservatorship run by her father in 2008. She did well under the arrangement at first, continuing to release records, make videos, and perform live, including a major concert residency in Las Vegas. But as she appeared less in public, fans began to demand that the court #FreeBritney, in what would eventually become a major movement.

Since the conservatorship ended, Spears has put out music, including a collaboration with Elton John in 2022, but has not performed live in years, nor announced plans to do so.

Her memoir, "The Woman in Me," is scheduled to be released in October.

'Tuohys ready to end conservatorship for Michael Oher'

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A prominent Memphis couple with a longstanding relationship to former NFL player Michael Oher want to end a conservatorship that he's challenging in court, their lawyers said.

Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy intend to enter into a consent order to end the conservatorship, lawyer Randall Fishman told reporters on Wednesday.

Oher filed a petition Monday in a Tennessee probate court accusing the Tuohys of lying to him by having him sign papers making them his conservators rather than his adoptive parents nearly two decades ago.

Oher, now 37, wants a full accounting of assets considering his life story produced millions of dollars, though he says he received nothing from the Oscar-nominated movie "The Blind Side." He accuses the Tuohys of falsely representing themselves as his adoptive parents, saying that he discovered in February 2023 that the conservatorship was not the arrangement he thought it was—and that it provided him no familial relationship to the Tuohys.

But the Tuohys' attorneys said Oher knew very well that he had not been adopted. Fishman said Oher mentioned the Tuohys being conservators for him three times in "I Beat The Odds: From Homeless, To The Blind Side," Oher's first book in 2011.

The couple's attorneys also said that the Tuohys and Oher have been estranged for about a decade. Steve Farese said Oher has become "more and more vocal and more and more threatening" over the past decade or so, and this is "devastating for the family."

The Tuohys have called the allegations a ridiculous shakedown attempt, and "a court of law is no place to play," Fishman said. In a statement released by their lawyers Tuesday, the Tuohys said Oher had threatened before the court filing to plant a negative news story about them unless they paid him $15 million.

Oher's lawyers did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The conservatorship paperwork was filed months after Oher turned 18 in May 2004. Oher accuses the Tuohys of never taking legal action to assume custody from the Tennessee Department of Human Services before he turned 18, though he was told to call them "Mom" and "Dad."

Oher alleges the Tuohys had him sign paperwork almost immediately after he moved in as part of the adoption process. Oher says he was "falsely advised" that it would be called a conservatorship because he was already 18, but that adoption was the intent.

The couple didn't simply adopt Oher, Fishman said, because the conservatorship was the fastest way to satisfy the NCAA's concerns that the Tuohys weren't simply steering a talented athlete to Mississippi, their alma mater where Oher later attended.

Oher, who has never been a fan of the movie about his life, asks that the Tuohys be sanctioned and required by the probate court to pay damages. He asks to be paid what he is due, along with interest.

Agents negotiated a small advance for the Tuohys from the production company for "The Blind Side," based on a book written by Sean Tuohy's friend Michael Lewis, the couple said.

Mom struggles to describe a daughter who's veered off-course

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter (age 21) has made a series of bad choices and failed relationships since she was 16. She went to college and quit (twice), joined the Air Force and hated it, but managed to get a "general discharge." At age 19, she had a baby with a high school dropout and violent drug abuser. They've had an on/off relationship. He has pushed, shoved and outright hit her, destroyed two of her phones, hit her sister and smashed her phone. He took my daughter's car while fleeing the police, leaving her and the baby stranded. We have paid countless sums of money for an attorney and sent her more to get her car. She has lied and deceived us on her relationship status. We wanted to believe our daughter.

Now they are back together! We sent the police for a wellness check, and they say she is OK. As you can imagine, we are heartbroken. Our other children are doing well and keep me sane. When people ask about our kids, what do we say about her? I want something simple to end the questioning. "She's back with her loser boyfriend, and I don't know where or what she's doing"? Is there any hope to make peace in our family?

WEARY MOM IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR WEARY MOM: When asked about your daughter, either tell the questioner your daughter is back with her boyfriend (omitting the fact that he is a drug-abusing, violent loser) or be truthful and reveal that you are "estranged." You do not have to go into more detail than that. You may find, to your surprise, that the questioner has a similar family situation. As to whether there's hope that your daughter will finally reunite with the rest of the family, it may take a long time, but at some point, she may decide to do that. However, it may not happen until her boyfriend starts to abuse their child.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been retired for almost 10 years. We moved to a coastal resort area we love. However, we have noticed that these retired couples/singles are extremely competitive and mostly a bunch of one-uppers. Is this common in all retirement communities? Does everyone need to have their last hurrah and wave the "I made it" flag? We have met only a handful of people who don't always talk about themselves and their achievements, recent purchases, upgrades to their property and genius children/grandchildren. We have never met so many narcissistic people in our lives. We have always thought that everyone puts their pants on the same way, so we just lay low and steer clear of these people. Any advice would be appreciated.

SURPRISED IN THE CAROLINAS

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SURPRISED: Maintain your relationships with that handful of folks who can carry on a conversation without bragging. Be sociable with everyone, and see the braggarts less often. Most folks who behave this way do it out of insecurity. Enlarge your social circle. Cultivate relationships with people whose values more closely align with yours.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

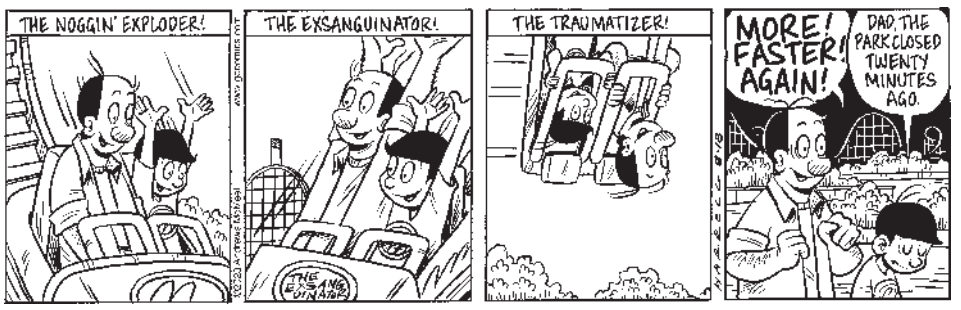
WELL, HOBBES, THE BATTLE MAY HAVE BEEN LOST, BUT THE WAR GOES ON!
THIS AFTERNOON, WELL DEVISE A BIGGER, BETTER, AND EVEN MORE COMPLICATED SCHEME, AND REVENGE WILL BE OURS! THE SPIRIT OF G.R.O.S.S.NESS CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED!
...AND FOR COURAGE IN THE FACE OF TEMPORARY SETBACKS, I AWARD US BOTTLE CAPS OF VALOR!
YAY!
A GOOD MEETING ALWAYS ENDS WITH US GETTING NEW MEDALS!
THIS IS SUCH A GREAT CLUB!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY NOT JUST ADMIT IT? YOU GUYS ARE THE PROBLEM.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. HUMANS ARE ALWAYS THE ONES GOING TO WAR. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, NOT ONE DANG BIT.
BUT THEN, MAYBE YOU DOGS ARE JUST JEALOUS OF OUR SUPERIOR FIREPOWER. YOU'D BETTER HOPE I DON'T TELL THE PENTAGON. OR... KA-BAM!
EEP?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

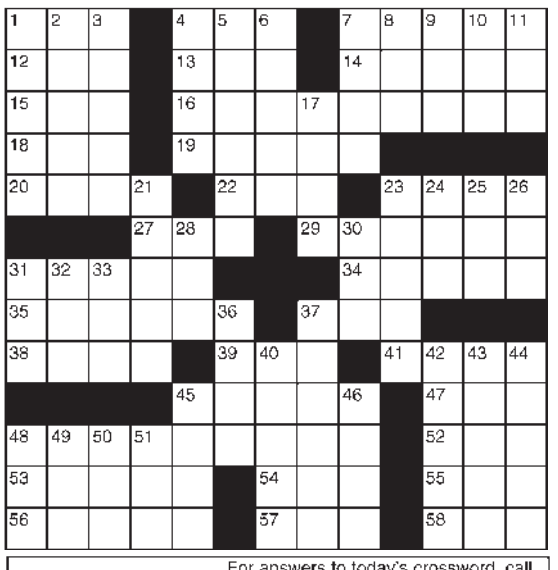
ACROSS
1 Chairman of China
4 Frequently
7 Yeshiva leader
12 Under the weather
13 Buddy
14 Ham it up on stage
15 Deleted
16 Currently traveling, say
18 French article
19 Quaint oath
20 Andean land
22 Hearty brew
23 Clarified butter
27 Like Abner or Wayne
29 Disdainful
31 Ceases
34 Family reunion attendee
35 Kicks off
37 Mil. bigwig
38 Valley in California
39 Fire
41 Fixed look
45 Vice President Burr
47 Seminary subj.
48 Past the deadline
52 CEO's degree, often
53 Verdi work
54 — Lingus
55 Scrap
56 Of higher quality
57 Leary's drug
58 Arctic explorer John

DOWN
1 Confusion
2 Coeur d'—, Idaho
3 More mature
4 Bassoon's kin
5 Thrifty
6 Sum
7 Boxing arbiters
8 911 responder
9 Scary shout
10 "Incidentally," to texters
11 Poetic dusk
17 Rhyming tributes
21 Prefix with violet
23 Auctioneer's word
24 Garden tool
25 Catchall abbr.
26 CBS logo
28 Follower (Suff.)
30 Compass dir.
31 QVC alternative
32 — standstill
33 Pool unit
36 Ella's style
37 Garden figurines
40 Popular typeface
42 Knight wear
43 Striped equine
44 Delight
45 Miles away
46 Dweeb
48 Gut-punch reaction
49 AP rival
50 Sawbuck
51 Miner's quest

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	L	■	S	A	S	S	■	A	B	E	L
E	M	O	■	U	L	I	A	■	R	I	I	E
L	O	W	S	P	E	E	D	■	E	B	A	N
■	■	G	E	E	■	P	I	C	A	S	S	O
I	A	R	A	R	E	■	E	R	A	■	■	■
A	R	A	■	B	O	Y	■	Y	U	M	M	Y
M	M	D	C	■	N	E	A	■	G	O	Y	A
M	Y	E	R	S	■	T	R	Y	■	C	R	L
■	■	■	O	T	C	■	C	A	R	N	A	L
H	O	I	S	E	A	I	■	K	E	G	■	■
E	M	U	S	■	W	O	H	K	F	L	O	W
M	I	T	F	■	F	R	N	F	■	O	R	T
S	T	U	D	■	D	F	A	D	■	W	F	S

Yesterday's answer 8-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madelaine Petsch, 29; Andy Samberg, 45; Edward Norton, 54; Robert Redford, 87.

Happy Birthday: Learn all you can this year and position yourself for success. Ask questions, take courses and build your qualifications to match your dreams. Be cognizant of what it will take to meet the demands surrounding your goals. Don't let personal matters conflict with your plans or cause you to second-guess yourself or change your course. Be true to yourself and those who support the decisions you make. Your numbers are 5, 17, 20, 24, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You can have fun, but don't go overboard. Poor behavior will have its downside. Pay attention to raising the bar and putting your energy where it counts. Self-improvement, nurturing relationships and finding your niche are priorities, and romance is favored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be honest with yourself and others regarding what you want and how you plan to achieve your goal. Enlist people who are dedicated, eager to help and can make a difference in the outcome. Don't immerse yourself in the impossible; be realistic. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take additional time to go over every detail to ensure your success. Someone will try to talk you into something costly or unnecessary. Don't accommodate others; do what's best for you. False information will set you back. Home improvement is favored. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Embark on a plan and call on those who can contribute to your vision. Home improvement and using your skills to get what you want will turn out splendidly. Don't hesitate or waste time because you fear failure; finish what you start. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Live and learn. Listen to what others say, and implement new ideas into your daily routine. Set yourself up for success by staying in touch with what's trending and adding skills and qualifications to meet the demands of today's competitive world. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't hide when you should act. Use your intelligence, and you'll find a way to make the most out of your situation. Opportunity is within reach. Recognition and willingness to step up and make things happen is up to you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Go over every detail before you sign up for something. Make sure you can finish what you start before you begin. Charm may buy you time and help, but it won't compensate for laziness. Others will remember your actions and determine the outcome. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Affiliate with upward-moving individuals and you'll gain momentum, knowledge and a different perspective regarding the possibilities. Trust those who have proven themselves capable and forward-thinking. Don't let your actions damage your reputation or position. Protect against injury and illness. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Protect your home and family. Don't share sensitive information or get into emotional conversations that put you in a vulnerable position. Put emphasis on health, love and looks. Focus less on what others do or say. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take advantage of everything. Step into the spotlight and make your voice heard, and your actions will bring about positive change. Opportunity will pay off financially and help you raise your standard of living. An unexpected turn of events will favor you. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't alter what's already working. Boredom will lead you down a slippery slope that can cost you dearly. Pay attention to how you present yourself physically, and you'll find an exciting way to appear more appealing. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You've got the right idea, so don't let outside interference slow you down. Aim to finish what you start, and take advantage of opportunities that come your way. Clear your head and forge into new territory with enthusiasm and confidence. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, distinctive and resourceful. You are appealing and fun-loving.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9		4	5			
	8		7					5
					9	8		4
		5		6		9	7	
	3	2		7				8
						4		
	5	3						
				5	1			
		4	9				6	3

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	1	6	2	9	8	3	4
4	3	6	5	8	7	9	1	2
2	8	9	1	4	3	7	6	5
9	1	7	8	5	2	6	4	3
8	6	5	7	3	4	2	9	1
3	4	2	9	1	6	5	7	8
5	7	3	2	9	1	4	8	6
1	9	8	4	6	5	3	2	7
6	2	4	3	7	8	1	5	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/17

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S HAPPY HOUR SOMEWHERE Solution: 9 letters

S	H	C	R	O	P	L	T	E	C	B	H	O	S	T
P	T	E	V	R	E	S	A	O	E	U	M	I	N	T
E	I	R	I	H	A	U	N	E	M	R	E	L	A	X
C	M	C	O	O	T	I	J	O	M	G	F	O	C	C
I	E	T	T	S	H	R	I	M	P	E	R	O	K	R
A	E	H	C	A	E	B	E	E	R	R	I	P	I	E
L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T	V	P	E	E	T	K	G
S	F	R	U	I	T	E	U	R	B	N	S	H	T	N
Y	T	B	A	N	S	E	O	A	G	I	I	E	S	U
A	E	L	E	N	O	M	L	L	R	W	L	M	E	O
D	R	O	U	D	O	C	A	U	Ⓣ	T	E	E	I	L
I	N	S	S	T	O	S	O	P	Ⓐ	R	V	S	T	U
L	O	R	I	N	S	T	S	O	Ⓒ	I	A	L	R	N
O	O	O	Y	A	Z	Z	I	P	Ⓞ	P	R	S	A	C
H	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	O	I	T	A	P	H

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Afternoon, Balcony, Beach, Beer, Burger, Free, Fries, Fruit, Glass, Holiday, Hors D'Oeuvre, Host, Hotel, Lounge, Lunch, Meal, Menu, Mint, Mojito, Neon, Parties, Patio, Pizza, Pool, Popular, Porch, Price, Promotion, Pub, Relax, Resort, Serve, Shrimp, Snack, Social, Specials, Stir, Sunset, Taco, Themes, Time, Toast, Tourist, Travel, Trip, Tropical, Vacation, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Childhood

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

England moves into finals vs. Spain after ending Australia's run

SYDNEY (AP)—Lauren Hemp didn't let the Women's World Cup semifinal match between Australia and England become the Sam Kerr show.

Hemp scored to restore England's lead eight minutes after a superb equalizer from Kerr, and then provided a perfect pass for the clincher as the Lionesses moved into their first World Cup championship game with a 3-1 victory over Australia on Wednesday.

The semifinal outcome ended a Matildas run that captivated Australia for almost a month and sent England to a matchup with Spain in the final, where the Lionesses will have a chance to bring a World Cup home for the first time since 1966.

Sarina Wiegman became the first coach to lead two countries to the Women's World Cup final, and in back-to-back tournaments. Her run with the Netherlands in 2019 ended with a loss to the United States.

On either side of that, she guided Netherlands to the European title in 2017 and then took over the England squad for its breakthrough Euro 2022 title.

"I'm the lucky one—the last two tournaments I'm going to the final," said Wiegman, the only female head coach of any team to reach the quarterfinals.

"You make it to finals, it's really special," she said. "I'm like, 'Am I here in the middle of a fairytale or something?'" England dominated possession in the first half, starving the Australians of the ball and shutting down the Matildas' transitional, counter-attacking game.

It was rewarded when Ella Toone scored in the 36th minute with a powerful right-foot shot diagonally inside the far post. A throw-in from Rachel Daly went to Hemp, who turned and sent it into the area where Alessia Russo turned the ball back past Hemp for Toone to swoop.

Kerr was in Australia's starting lineup for the first time in the tournament after overcoming a left calf injury.

Her equalizer in the 63rd gave the 75,784-strong crowd and millions of fans watching around Australia renewed hope, but Hemp responded with a goal in the 71st and provided a perfect through ball for Russo to finish from a tight angle four minutes from the end of regulation.

"Even after Sam's goal there was no fear in the squad. We weren't nervous. We just played our football," Hemp said. "We showed the relentlessness inside the squad to make it 2-1. And then even when we're on the backfoot going into the final few minutes, I felt like we showed calm, composure on the ball to manage to counterattack them and obviously make it 3-1."

England and Spain will each be playing in the Women's World Cup final for the first time at Stadium Australia on Sunday. It will be the first all-European final since 2003.

AP

England's Rachel Daly and England's Georgia Stanway celebrate after the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match between Australia and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

Australia will play Sweden, which lost to Spain 2-1 in the other semifinal, for third place on Saturday in Brisbane.

"We had a chance for 2-2 and a couple of minutes later it was 3-1," Australia coach Tony Gustavsson said. "It was one of those games, unfortunately."

Katrina Gorry created chances in each half of her 100th game for Australia but said the Matildas weren't able to dominate the way they needed to.

"But you know, we've got a quick turnaround and we want to win the bronze medal," she said.

After topping its group, advancing over Nigeria on penalties in the round of 16 and beating Colombia in the quarterfinals, England was playing in the semifinals for the third consecutive Women's World Cup. Australia was in the final four for the first time.

It showed, particularly in the first half and in the last 20 minutes, when England had a harder edge and was more clinical when it counted.

The Australians seem to have played their final in the 7-6 penalty shootout win over France last weekend, their first win in four quarterfinal appearances at the Women's World Cup.

Kerr missed the group stage, played the last 10 minutes in the round-of-16 win over Denmark and went on as a second-half substitute in that narrow win over fifth-ranked France before finally getting a start against England.

She ended up on the ground after her first touch after a tangle with Keira Walsh. In the ninth minute, England defender Alex Greenwood received a yellow card for a sliding tackle from behind that left Kerr on the ground again.

After being subdued by England's defense for an hour, Kerr took the ball around halfway, sprinted forward in a solo run and launching a long-range right-foot shot that lightly touched defender Millie Bright before going into the top left corner.

Kerr started making inroads as momentum shifted briefly before England responded, with Hemp running onto a long ball into the area and scoring with a left-foot finish after Australia defender Ellie Carpenter over-ran the ball.

Kerr missed a chance to equalize again with a header in the 82nd and miscued another shot as Australia squandered three opportunities before Hemp set up Russo to finish off the scoring.

After putting Australia out of contention, Hemp said the England squad wanted to relive the kind of euphoria that their win in the European Championship generated last year.

"Obviously you've seen last year how successful we were. We want to do the same again, we want to go one step further," Hemp said. "We've all got a dream and I feel like we're really pushing each other to be the best that we can."

A nation of new Matildas fans salutes Australia's run to the semifinals

SYDNEY (AP)—Sam Kerr looked up at the Stadium Australia crowd for the last time at this Women's World Cup, and it just compounded the gnawing disappointment that she and her Matildas had fallen one game before the final.

In what has been an immense shift in the Australian public's sporting consciousness, nine out of 10 people who watched commercial television on Wednesday night tuned in to see the national women's soccer team's 3-1 loss to England in the semifinals.

That figure—an audience reach of 11.5 million and an average audience of 7.13 million reported by the free-to-air host broadcaster—excludes paid streaming, and those who gathered at dedicated fan zones, where some over-exuberant revelers let off flares, and in pubs and clubs around the country.

"We've kind of captured the nation," a visibly dejected Kerr said after walking off the pitch. "The support we've had has been amazing and we'll do everything we can on the weekend to get them a third place."

The 29-year-old Kerr has won the golden boot for leading scorer in leagues in Australia, the United States and England, where she's a star for the champion Chelsea team. But her World Cup was heavily curtailed by an injury sustained on the eve of the Matildas' opening game on July 20.

Her left calf muscle become a topic of daily news Down Under, even after she returned as a second-half substitute in the dramatic penalty shootout win over France in the quarterfinals and, finally, started a game for the first time in the semifinal.

She was chopped down by defenders twice in the opening 10 minutes and had a relatively subdued first half, but brought the game to life with her stunning solo goal in the 63rd minute that leveled the score at 1-1 and renewed hope for the Matildas.

"We just feel really proud that they've got behind us and we've changed the way women's football is seen in Australia," Kerr added. "It's been amazing. A big thank you."

Kerr, who converted to soccer from Aussie rules as a teenager because she was no longer allowed to play in boys leagues, has seen a phenomenal transformation in the game since she made her international debut in 2009.

At age 15, she went on as a late substitute in a 5-1 loss to Italy at Canberra, Australia's capital, where a crowd of 2,916 would never have believed the evolution that has occurred. She didn't even give her parents much notice that she'd been selected.

In July and August of 2023, she's had the nation's full attention.

Morning news bulletins on Thursday reported the "heartbreak" for the Matildas, and daily newspapers across the country once again heavily featured the women's national team. A high-profile sports store in downtown Sydney still had the Matildas jerseys —hard to attain in recent weeks — on display at full price. There'll be no discounting this team for a while.

The domestic TV audience reported for the quarterfinal win was the biggest in Australia for any event since the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The semifinal broadcast was even bigger — significantly larger than the biggest men's games in the Aussie rules Australian Football League and the National Rugby League that so frequently pull the biggest crowds.

It's unlikely Australia's Saturday bronze playoff against Sweden at Brisbane will match the TV audience of the semifinal, but it'll be a decent farewell. England plays Spain on Sunday in the final at Sydney.

Attendance for the first 32-team Women's World Cup has shattered records, with FIFA reporting a combined 1.85 million attendance for the first 62 games at an average 29,888 across 10 venues in Australia and New Zealand. That's 5,000 more than the historical average for the tournament.

The number of news pages devoted to the Matildas was unprecedented for women's sport and for soccer in Australia, too. And this is home to the long-time No. 1 women's cricket team — which pulled a crowd exceeding 86,000 for a game against India in 2020 —and world champions in netball.

The fact that an entire nation almost expected the Matildas to win the title says a lot about the pressure Kerr and her 10th-ranked team faced on home soil.

Australia had lost all three previous quarterfinals it reached at the Women's World Cup. Only one host, the United States, had ever won a quarterfinal match at the Women's World Cup.

So reaching the semifinals had the feel of a final. Tears and emotions poured out of long-time supporters and millions of more recent fans after that dramatic penalty shootout win over France last weekend.

Police reported it was vandals who caused a disruption to the train line from Stadium Australia in Sydney's western suburbs back to the city, causing delays of more than 1 1/2 hours Wednesday for some of the 75,000 people who attended the semifinal. For some, it just prolonged the pain.

For others, it's already time to look to the future.

Matildas midfielder Alex Chidiac said the team had created "a legacy that's going to live on and it obviously has inspired so many people."

"After the tournament, we'll get all that perspective and this will be a lot easier to swallow," she said of the loss. "Obviously right now, it's still very fresh. But I think overall (a) massive achievement. . . . we've got a whole bunch of passionate fans now, which is cool."

Mary Fowler, a 20-year-old emerging star for Manchester City who had a breakthrough tournament for Australia, will likely be part of that legacy.

"It's always really nice, just watching videos and people around the country giving us some love," she said. "It's been an unbelievable tournament in that sense."

Torkelson slugs 2 HRs and leads Tigers to 8-7 win over Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Spencer Torkelson homered twice against Minnesota for the second time in a week, and the Detroit Tigers beat the Twins MBL 8-7 on Wednesday.

Torkelson lifted Griffin Jax's 1-1 sweeper into the left-field seats to give the Tigers a 6-4 lead in the top of the seventh for his fourth career multi-homer game. His previous was last Wednesday against the Twins in Detroit.

BRAVES 2, YANKEES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Charlie Morton recorded 10 strikeouts in six innings, Eddie Rosario hit a two-run homer and Atlanta beat New York to complete a three-game sweep and give the struggling Yankees their first losing record of the season.

New York (60-61) was left with a five-game losing streak after being outscored 18-3 in the sweep, capped by back-to-back shutouts. The Braves (78-42) have thrown four shutouts in their last seven games to boost the majors' best record.

PADRES 5, ORIOLES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. stole home in the seventh inning to electrify a sellout crowd at Petco Park and big league ERA leader Blake Snell pitched six strong innings as San Diego beat Baltimore to take two of three from the best team in the AL.

Two batters after Trent Grisham homered to give the Padres a 4-2 lead, Tatis singled, stole second and took third on pitcher Cionel Perez's throwing error. With Juan Soto batting, the left-handed Perez had his back turned and Tatis took a few steps, began jogging and then broke into a sprint to easily steal home. Perez was so surprised he didn't attempt to throw home.

DODGERS 7, BREWERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts went 3 for 4 and scored four runs, and Los Angeles Dodgers benefitted from two catcher's interference calls to win their 10th in a row and increase their NL West lead to 10 games over San Francisco.

Freddie Freeman ended an 0-for-14 skid with a 3-for-5 performance to go with stellar defense. Five of the Dodgers' seven runs came with two outs, including Chris Taylor's solo shot in the seventh. Miguel Rojas also homered.

ANGELS 2, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Left-hander Reid Detmers took a no-hitter into the eighth inning and two-way star Shohei Ohtani hit his 42nd home run as Los Angeles beat the AL West-leading Texas.

The Rangers got their first hit when Marcus Semien lined a double into the left-center gap with one out in the eighth on the 108th and final pitch by Detmers (3-9).

Reynaldo Lopez and Carlos Estevez then finished off the Angels' eighth shutout this season. Texas, which entered the game with .273 team batting average and an MLB-high 1,138 hits, was held scoreless for the ninth time.

RAYS 6, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Luke Raley had the first pinch-hit, inside-the-park home run in Tampa Bay history and Aaron Civale (6-3) pitched six strong innings for his first victory since being acquired at the trade deadline.

Isaac Paredes had three hits and seven other starters had at least one. Josh Lowe hit his 15th home run leading off the fourth, while Brandon Lowe connected for his 16th as part of a three-run fifth.

ASTROS 12, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP)—Alex Bregman, Kyle Tucker and Chas McCormick homered in the first inning, and Houston built a huge early lead in beating Miami.

Astros slugger Yordan Alvarez hit his fourth career triple, and Mauricio Dubón had two hits and two RBIs as Houston banged out 12 hits and took two of three games from Miami.

PHILLIES 9, BLUE JAYS 4

TORONTO (AP)—Bryce Harper hit two solo home runs, Aaron Nola pitched five innings and snapped a four-start winless streak and Philadelphia won for the first time in four games.

Jake Cave added a solo homer and Nick Castellanos had two hits and an RBI as the Phillies hammered out 11 hits and avoided a sweep in the two-game series north of the border.

Harper went 3 for 4 with a walk in his 25th career multi-homer game and first this season. Nola (10-8) allowed four runs and four hits, including a two-run home run by Daulton Varsho. Nola struck out seven and walked four.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Teoscar Hernandez hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Seattle beat Kansas City.

Julio Rodriguez had four hits for Seattle, including a ninth-inning single that provided an insurance run the Mariners ended up needing. Cal Raleigh added a home run and a double.

Luis Castillo (9-7) allowed four runs on nine hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out three.

Matt Brash picked up his third save despite allowing Nelson Velazquez's homer in the ninth.

NATIONALS 6, RED SOX 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Keibert Ruiz hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, Stone Garrett homered twice for the first time in his career, and Washington beat Boston.

After Lane Thomas singled and Joey Meneses was hit by a pitch leading off the eighth, Ruiz drove an 0-1 changeup from Garrett Whitlock (5-4) to right-center to make it 5-2. Two pitches later, Garrett hit a no-doubt, 442-foot liner to center, his ninth of the season. Garrett also homered leading off the fourth.

MacKenzie Gore allowed one hit while pitching into the seventh inning for Washington. The second-year lefty appeared to have some discomfort on his pitching hand after throwing a first-pitch ball to Trevor Story with one out.

CUBS 4, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Christopher Morel hit a dramatic three-run homer off Gregory Santos in the ninth inning, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Chicago White Sox.

Cody Bellinger sparked the winning rally with a leadoff double. Dansby Swanson then walked before Morel drove a 1-2 pitch from Santos (2-1) over the wall in right-center for his 19th homer.

Morel's first career game-ending homer was the Cubs' first hit with runners in scoring position all night. They were looking at a frustrating shutout loss before Nick Madrigal's pinch-hit homer against Aaron Bummer in the eighth set the stage for Morel's big swing in the ninth.

REDS 7, GUARDIANS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Stuart Fairchild and Matt McLain hit two-run homers in the fourth inning and Cincinnati handed Cleveland's Noah Syndergaard his first loss in 10 career starts against the Reds.

TJ Friedl had three hits, scored three runs and made two spectacular catches in center field to back rookie left-hander Andrew Abbott (8-3) and help the Reds split the two-game Ohio Cup series.

Abbott didn't walk anybody while giving up six hits and two runs with five strikeouts in five innings.

Reds relievers Fernando Cruz, Sam Moll, Derek Law and Alan Busenitz combined to allow three hits in four shutout innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, ROCKIES 7

DENVER (AP)—Christian Walker hit a pair of two-run homers, the second in the eighth inning lifting Arizona past Colorado.

Tommy Pham singled off Tyler Kinley (0-1) to open the eighth inning and Walker followed with a 425-foot homer to right-center for an 8-7 lead. Walker, who has 28 homers, also homered in the first two games of the series. He has 22 career homers against Colorado, 13 at Coors Field.

Walker had three hits and four RBIs, Nick Ahmed had a three-run triple and Corbin Carroll had two hits and his 37th stolen base after replacing Lourdes Gurriel in the fifth inning. Gurriel left because of a strained left hip.

METS 8, PIRATES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—DJ Stewart had his first multi-homer game in two years, leading New York over Pittsburgh.

Stewart, who also homered as a pinch-hitter in Tuesday's 7-4 loss, hit a solo shot in the second inning off Johan Oviedo (6-13) and had a two-run homer in the fifth off Ryan Borucki. The two-homer game was the third of Stewart's career and his first since Aug. 12, 2021, when he went deep twice for the Baltimore Orioles.

Pete Alonso hit his 36th homer, a solo shot that moved him into the Mets' top 10 list in RBIs with 469, snapping a tie with Keith Hernandez.

ATHLETICS 8, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Zack Gelof had four hits and Paul Blackburn pitched seven scoreless inning as Oakland beat St. Louis and snapped a nine-game road losing streak.

Gelof had his second career four-hit game—and the second this week—after getting four against Washington on Sunday.

Blackburn (3-3) turned in the longest outing of his season, allowing six hits, with eight strikeouts and one walk.

ANTONI

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were impressed by what they've seen and what his potential is in the coming years," said Ambrose.

During the summer, Antoni was invited to college football camps and took advantage of the opportunity. Ambrose said, "We took advantage of [these] invitations this summer and he's done really well at all of them that they've invited him back for a visit during the college football season so that he could experience a college gameday and feel out the school environment."

On Antoni's high school sports career, Ambrose said so far it's been great. Antoni started out his freshman year playing on the varsity basketball team and earned his first start midway through the season, then transitioned to football during the fall season.

Antoni, who has never played football before, caught on quickly. He played football his sophomore year and was selected to play on the varsity team as well and was named the starter for both offense at tight end and defense at defensive end.

From there, he led his team to their first Conference Championship Title in 22 years. Also last school year, Antoni led his basketball team to their first Conference Championship title in 21 years.

For Ambrose, when asked what he sees for his son's future, he said "I see a very bright future for my son in college sports just because I see how much he pours into the sports he plays and his passion to chase his dreams to play at the next level. Honestly, the only expectation my wife and I have for Antoni in college is to continue being that student-athlete where his studies come first before being an athlete. Without that education, eligibility to play that sport will be denied no matter how good of a player you are."

Antoni Ogumoro's grandparents are Ambrosio Ogumoro and Felicidad Kaipat Ogumoro of Capital Hill and Rufino and Carol Aguon of Kagman. Rufino Aguon incidentally is Ambrose Ogumoro's former coach in the CNMI national basketball team.

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were up by 27 points, as Frank Ferrer led the team with his 18 points.

The duo of Andrew Ashburn and De Shawn Reign assisted in their team's winning effort with 11 and 10 points each.

Socho could not navigate the Easy Rider's tough defense that pressured their takes at the basket, therefore had a low scoring game. It was an unlucky 7 for them as that was the most points four of their players made in the game.

First Game

Blue Haus 73 – De Dios 19, Talania 13, Barrio 12, Esdrelon 8, Santos 6, Diaz 6, Culala 4, Garcia 3, Chan 2.

Long Shot 68 – Cubangbang 15, Chavez 9, Formales 9, Villarin 9, Estolas 8, Tolentino 7, Ibajan 4, Flores 4, Nunez 2, Dela Torre 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-6, 41-33, 63-46, 73-68.

Second Game

Easy Riders 64 – Ferrer 18, Ashburn 11, Diwa 10, Padayao 8, Directo 7, Camacho 6, Reign 4.

Socho 50 – Sambile 7, Q. Faisao 7, Guerrero 7, Jones 7, D. Faisao 5, Olopai 5, Pangelinan 5, Babauta 3, Castro 2, Hocog 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-6, 30-19, 59-32, 64, 50.

SAIPAN

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was his great attitude when it comes to treating fans like him.

"Very friendly, very humble kid, and all smiles. He's very accommodating and he gives time to everyone who wants to take a photo with him. I just greeted him how he was. He said he's fine. I told him that I saw his games in the NBA Summer League with the Orlando Magic and that he did great and told him 'just keep on going and just keep playing.' He said 'thank you, thank you' and we took a photo," said Zapata, who in his Facebook posts with the giant only came up to around Sotto's sternum.

Zapata also didn't mince words against critics of the Philippine basketball wunderkind.

"Just disappointing that Kai has a lot of bashers. But he is only 21 years old. Please give him a break! My encounter with him was very inspiring and the biggest takeaway was how humble he was."

Zapata currently is on the lineup of Legends in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023.

He's been playing in basketball leagues on Saipan since 1998 and has won one championship in a squad that included past basketball greats Ed Palma and Ronald Delos Reyes.

Zapata played varsity in high school at Holy Ghost School in Tayum, Abra. He finished his nursing degree at Unciano Colleges in Antipolo, Rizal.

CNMI torn between The Red Ones and Lionesses

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

At the cusp of fútbol history, the CNMI—like the rest of the world—is torn between Spain and England in the Women's World Cup finals set for this Sunday, August 20.

Ironically, although both are powerhouse nations in the world's most popular sport, they have yet to win the coveted Cup—as England finally broke a 57-year finals drought—while this is the first appearance ever for Spain. But after stellar performances by The Red Ones and the Lionesses, they've taken the fútbol world by storm, silenced the haters, and captured the hearts of many.

After CNMI favorite Japan was dealt a crushing defeat in a close game against Sweden take a look at who CNMI fútbol fans are now rooting for.

■■■

"I am going for Spain in the World Cup. I am Puerto Rican and Mexican so Spanish is in my blood! I can't help but root for them. At the end of the day though I am here for great football so when I see great plays and great goals, I will cheer no matter what! BIBA ESPAÑA!"

—Moriah Sablan, MPU Women's midfielder/forward and MPU board vice president

Chavez

Rangamar

Gross

Ranagamar

Sugatan

Villaflor

Relucio

Sablan

"I want England to win because I know some of the players and I like how they play. They make soccer look so easy. But for sure it's going to be a good match because Spain and England are both good teams. So, I'm definitely looking forward to a good match."

—Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, NMI Women's National Team midfielder

"For this Women's World Cup, I am rooting for Spain. Spain should win the Women's World Cup because of their exceptional teamwork, technical skills, and strong defensive strategies. Their consistent performance and dedication to promoting women's football make them deserving of the title. Additionally, Spain's diverse talent pool and passion for the sport showcase their potential to excel on the international stage."

—Rizza Relucio, NMI Women's National Team forward

"I chose England because compared to Spain, they're more intense, quicker, and physical. When Spain played against Sweden, Spain started at a slow pace and only increased their pace in the last 20 minutes of the game. England maintained their intensity throughout the whole tournament and individually, they're very talented and creative."

—Christy Villaflor, soccer camp administrator

"I was going for Australia but I believe they lost to England. I'll go for England since they beat my team and It'll be their first World Cup Championship."

—Jonathan Sugatan, Hopwood Middle School Leadership Corp instructor

"I was rooting for home team Aussies but got knocked out last night. Will be rooting for Spain in the finals. Well, both are blue- blooded soccer nations where it's not just a hobby but a way of life. Interestingly though, both have never been to the world cup finals. Both play a lot of small ball possession with England being a bit more physical. Still going for the Spaniards though. Go España."

—Elias Rangamar, Northern Marianas Athletics coach

"Spain, double or nothing. It's honestly hard to choose between the two but I'm just a tiny bit inclined to choose Spain because England knocked out my team."

—Lia Rangamar, CNMI PSS Athletics Program sports coordinator

"Spain all the way! Payback for last year's loss to England in the European Championship quarterfinals!"

—Nick Gross, CNMI PSS Athletics Program director

Reyes wins first monthly tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony S. Reyes won his very first Saipan Golfers Association monthly competition after topping the June Ace of the Month Tournament last June 18 at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

Reyes

The 65-year-old owner of TSR Computer & Consulting Services fired a net score of 69 after shooting a gross score of 89. The 20-handicapper had a 45 in the front nine and a 44 in the back nine.

Rick Kautz finished a stroke back with a net 70. The 12-handicapper actually scored a gross score of 82 after identical 41s in the first and last nine holes.

Larry DeLeon Guerrero completed the Top 3 with his net 72. The former lawmaker carded a 92 gross following mirroring 46s in the front and back nines.

Reyes said the June tourney was played in almost perfect golf conditions.

"The weather was good and the course conditions were great... I just tried to stay relaxed and enjoy the game," he said, while dedicating his victory to his cousin, John Torres, "who is unable to play with our TJN group anymore."

TJN stands for Tata Jose Nieves, who is Reyes' grandfather and grandmother. The group is composed of his cousins, in-laws, nephews, and friends.

Reyes said he picked up the sport many years ago because of the friendships and as a way to kick back and relax.

"I've been playing golf for several years with our family and friends group. I picked up the sport because it is a good way to relieve my stress and also enjoy the camaraderie with the group," he said.

As for joining the SGA, Reyes said, "actually, I was invited as a guest and at the banquet, I was asked to join the club. "

In the closest to the pin competition, Larry DeLeon Guerrero topped hole No. 3, while Ben Aldan was without peer in hole No. 7. Das Krishnan registered two victories in holes No. 12 and 14.

In the longest drive, Tony DeLeon Guerrero brought out the lumber in hole No. 6, while Reyes won hole No. 18.

With his victory in June, Reyes now joins SGA's 2023 Ace of the Year qualifiers Ray Salas (January), Das Krishnan (February), Joe Sablan (March), Rick Kautz (April), and Nick Sablan (May).

The SGA 2023 July Ace of the Month Tournament was supposed to be scheduled last Sunday, Aug. 13, but was canceled due to bad weather.

Second Pacific Games golf qualifier tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations will hold the second of five tryouts for the CNMI national golf team for the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands tomorrow, Aug. 19.

The second tryout will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort with a 12pm showtime and a tee time of 1pm.

Two weeks ago, Franco Santos drew first blood in the qualifiers after the 31-year-old finance manager of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc. fired an even par 72 also at the Kagman golf course.

Santos, who was part of the bronze-medal winning team in last year's Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI, had four birdies in holes No. 2, 10, 17, and 18 and 10 pars to offset his two bogeys and a double bogey on hole No. 11. He was even-steven in both the first nine and last holes with identical 36s.

CFoGA will continue the qualifiers with the third tryout on Sept. 9 at the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with an 8am showtime and a 9:13am tee time.

On Sept. 23, the fourth tryout will commence at the west course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is 7am followed by an 8:10am tee time.

A week later on Sept. 30, CFoGA will hold its fifth and final tryout and like the previous last tryout for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, it will be done sans golf carts.

The "walking day" tryout will also be held at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with a 7am showtime and 8am tee time.

For more information, call Pacific Games national team qualifiers coordinator Kaegel Taitano at (670) 789-2102.

England moves into finals vs. Spain after ending Australia's run.

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Antoni Ogumuro is player to watch by college football scouts

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The American football season is just around the corner but the high school football season is about to kick off tomorrow and a tall kid tracing his root from a tiny island—6'6" student-athlete Antoni Ogumoro—is making waves in his athletic endeavors while still in high school.

Son of former CNMI national basketball team member Ambrose Ogumoro and his wife, former CNMI national volleyball team member, Mayumi Aguon, Antoni is a multi-sport athlete who is on the watch list in his high school junior year by several NCAA Division I football programs.

Antoni plays basketball and football but as of late has shifted his focus to football. The White Oak, North Carolina student played last season under the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL) for Team United out of Charlotte, North Carolina until he made the transition to football.

His father said,, "If he's fortunate enough and if the same school recruits him to play basketball too, he'll go play for that school, but I'd say his focus and attention currently is on football."

The 16-year-old defensive lineman impressed many scouts after his father said they've seen game film of him from last season. "They

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

No. 9 Antoni Ogumoro in action during one of White Oak High School's football games. He is the son of former CNMI national basketball team member, Ambrose Ogumoro, and former CNMI national volleyball team member, Mayumi Aguon.

Saipan masters cager meets NBA prospect

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's not often that you meet an NBA prospect, but that's exactly what happened to masters player Amor Zapata during his vacation in the Philippines last month.

The 54-year-old nurse at Hardt Eye Clinic bumped into Kai Sotto, the 7'3" center of Gilas Pilipinas who saw action for the Orlando Magic in the just concluded NBA Summer League, during his and his wife's checkup at St. Luke's Bonifacio Global City.

"I actually didn't notice him immediately as I didn't have my glasses on, but my wife Ann noticed a very tall person. They were eating breakfast and we just also came down to order breakfast," said Zapata.

He said what stood out immediately with Sotto—well aside from his 7'3" frame—

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hardt Eye Clinic nurse Amor Zapata takes a photo with 7'3" Gilas Pilipinas center Kai Sotto during a chance encounter last month while vacationing in the Philippines.

Blue Haus escapes Long Shot, 73-68

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Blue Haus escaped the rallying clutches of Long Shot, 73-68, in the masters division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

After a more than lackluster effort in the first quarter, 6-22, by Long Shot, it seemed like the team was true to its name for a comeback, but they turned things around in the second quarter as their offense started to warm up.

Blue Haus basically had an easy time in the first quarter as Long Shot fumbled their way to the basket, with center Marlon De Dios already scoring double digits with 10 points.

By the second quarter, however, Long Shot regrouped and tried their best to keep pace with Blue Haus. Long Shot jumped from just 6 points to 33 thanks to more accurate shots and 3-point makes by Victor Formales and Allan Chavez.

LEIGH GASES

Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios, right, goes up against Long Shots' Angel Cubangbang in the masters division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus still had the upper hand though as their more rugged defense and sharpshooting offense carried them to a 41-33 lead heading into the third quarter.

Long Shot was not far behind yet, but they began to crumble yet again in the third quarter as Blue Haus was speedier to the basket and tougher on their defense. But Long Shot's Angel Cubangbang's overall 15 points edged them closer to Blue Haus in the last quarter.

Long Shot wasn't out of it yet because in the last quarter, they pushed as close as they could for the lead, but just fell short a few points. Blue Haus' De Dios continued to make his shots and ended with 19 points, Brendon Talania had 13 of his own, while Elmer Esdrelon scored 8.

In the second game of the night, Easy Riders defeated Socho, 65-50, in the open division.

The Easy Riders had another easy time in this game as they had a more clean and precise shooting and passing game. By the end of the third quarter, they

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